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THE MARTLET

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# Naked poets strip away stigmas

## Women in the Raw performers bare it all for PEERS and International Women's Day

**Danielle Pope**

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Poets Kristy Westendorp (left) and Heidi Machnee performed March 1 in Women in the Raw, in an effort to challenge feminine image stereotypes.**

A group of women made a statement about body image and femininity Sunday night, March 1, by reading poetry — and taking their clothes off.

Women in the Raw, an event which showcased a group of six nude performers, took place at the Victoria Event Centre as part of the LoudSpeaker festival, a two-week-long celebration honouring International Women's Day.

The performance wowed an all-women and trans audience of almost 100 people, as six beautiful bodies performed monologues, poems, songs and conversations on stage in the nude.

Kristy Westendorp, one of the performers and lead organizer of Women in the Raw, said the performance went better than she could have ever hoped.

"I had women coming up to me in tears following the performance and telling me how emotional it was for them," Westendorp said. "People laughed, cried and I think ultimately were touched by our vulnerability."

Westendorp developed the idea of an all-women event after performing nude for last year's co-ed event, Poetry in the Raw.

"After Poetry in the Raw, I was contacted by a teacher from one of the high schools in Victoria who insisted that every girl in her school needed to hear the poem I had performed about body image (Thin is In)," she said.

Last year's event had been 18-and-up because of the co-ed nudity, but Westendorp wanted to create an avenue for women of all ages to see what different bodies look like naked — so only women and transgendered individuals were allowed. Then she received an offer to make it part of the LoudSpeaker festival. Westendorp was overjoyed when LoudSpeaker organizer Andrea Routley offered her the night and the venue to do the show, and she immediately put together a team of women with "strong voices and powerful words." From there, Westendorp said the direction of the show became largely group driven.

"Everyone who performed in the show had a say in how it came together, and I think that collaboration is what made it such an amazing performance," she said, emphasizing that the purpose was to highlight a cross-section of women.

While Westendorp said Women in the Raw didn't start as a fundraiser, the group was excited to raise money for Prostitutes Empowerment and Education Resource Society (PEERS) after joining LoudSpeaker.

"The show was very much about 'de-stigmatizing' nudity and sexuality," Westendorp said. "The more we are able to talk about these things and not think of them as dirty or secretive [the quicker] we will see the world become a safer place for sex-trade workers who live in so much shame and don't know where or how to get help because of this."

PEERS Sex Worker Integration Co-ordinator Tracie Fawkes was in attendance Sunday night. Fawkes said she was touched by the sincerity of the performances, and the generosity of the event.

"I think it's fantastic, the choice to showcase raw women," said Fawkes. "It's the perfect way to talk about bodies and to take back ownership of them — to show that women everywhere have the intelligence to make those choices."

Kelly Dunning, a UVic visual arts grad and a longstanding member of the Victoria poetry community, said the night was an astounding experience.

Dunning attended last year's Poetry in the Raw, but said the all-women experience was vastly different.

*See Women revel, p. 15*

# UVSS letter targets anti-Islam sentiments

**Kailey Willetts**

Anti-Islamic material being posted around campus spurred the UVic Students' Society to file a letter of complaint to the Equity and Human Rights Office and Campus Security last week.

The letter, dated Feb. 26, states that "these materials promote discrimination and hate toward Muslims." The materials in question are a comic strip and poster featuring anti-Islamic sentiment.

A motion to write the letter, which also calls for the ban of "any other individual that is caught propagating hate speech," was brought forward at a UVSS board meeting by Luam Kidane, the board's Students of Colour Collective representative.

"I think it's very positive that the students' society is taking a stand," said Cindy Player, the director of Equity and Human Rights and a member of the University Human Rights Committee. "I see this as a stand that supports an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone on campus."

Player is glad the UVSS has opened the dialogue with Equity and Human Rights to talk about these issues.

"I think it's a fine line between allowing someone to express their views and where those views start to harm another individual or group," she said.

Many students have approached the UVSS to express their concern with the material. The individual who claims to be responsible for putting up the materials, Victoria resident Lorenzo Bouchard, has been banned from campus for the past several years for carrying a metal cane.

"He has been seen from time to time," said Director of Campus Security Pete Zacour. "We approach him and we ask him to leave and he does."

Zacour said that if an individual ever refused to leave campus after being asked by Campus Security, the police would be called and the individual would be dealt with under the Tresspass Act.

As for the board's request that other individuals caught propagating hate speech be banned, Zacour said Campus Security deals with them.

*See UVSS calls, p. 2*

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

**UVSS Students of Colour Collective board rep Luam Kidane stands by a bulletin board in the SUB where an anti-Islamic poster was found.**

*Continued from p. 1*

# UVSS calls for ban

"If somebody's posting material that's not authorized or stamped ... those people are asked to stop posting," he said. "The material is removed and those people are asked to leave campus."

Zacour added that bars often post unstamped material around campus.

UVSS Director of Finance Tracy Ho said the university issued Bouchard a letter on Feb. 27 reminding him of his ban.

According to Ho, Bouchard was known to her and the rest of the board executive before they started noticing the materials in December from his earlier visits to campus and the Student Union Building.

"He scares a lot of people as well in the SUB," she said, adding that Campus Security was called on multiple occasions to remove him. "[But] he doesn't put up a fight; he's pretty respectable."

However, Ho feels the recent materials are unacceptable.

"It goes against so many university policies and creates such a hostile and hateful environment which students staff and faculty should not be subjected to," she said. "The university has to take action."

Ho said the university has policies surrounding hate speech and discrimination.

"It goes against the policies and it goes against our university culture as well," Ho said. "We want to have those tough discussions and tough talks, but it also needs to be in a way that is respectful and in a way that won't prevent others from being heard, and we feel that this material does."

Ho requests that anyone finding potentially hateful material on campus document the building and time, and bring it to the board at the resource centre in the SUB or to Campus Security.

A UVic Human Rights forum called "Equity and Speech — Walking the Walk and Talking the Talk" will be held by Jody Patterson and Tom Patch on Tuesday, March 10, in room C122 of the David Strong Building from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone interested in listening to and discussing the issues surrounding balancing freedom of expression and freedom from discrimination is welcome to attend.

*- with files from Kat Eschner*

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Engineering students (left to right) executioner Ryan Taal, undertaker Aaron Trueman, bard Ryan Flagg, councilor Noel Bacani and grand inquisitor Jason Heinrich ready their whip cream for the Order of Pi, a fundraising event held from March 2 to 6 for the Queen Alexandria Foundation.**

# Students get it in the face for charity

**Danielle Pope**

UVic students are about to get creamed — at least if a group of engineering students have their way.

The Order of Pi, an annual fundraiser put on by the Engineering Students' Society from March 2 to 6, is an effort to raise money for the Queen Alexandria Foundation for Children and bring awareness to the importance of giving back to the community — in more ways than one.

"It's good solid fun for everyone involved — the participants and the volunteers," said Chris Chmara, a fourth-year engineering student and chair of the Order of Pi.

The event works in a jury-like fashion, and allows "accusers" to send pies (at a starting rate of $10) to any "defendant" they wish in the Victoria area.

Once a charge has been made, the defendant will undergo a trial, in which they can plead innocent and choose to pay $5 more than the person who bought their pie — then send it on to another person (or back to their accuser). If they plead guilty, they'll be sentenced with a whipped-cream pie in the face. That means if someone received a $100 pie, they'd have to pay $105 to get out of it — something, Chmara says, can happen when employees pool to pie their boss. And all those proceeds go straight to charity.

While it sounds like a quick way to get revenge on any peer, prof or employer who's ever done you wrong, Chmara cautions that there are some rules.

Pies can't be sent maliciously (the charge is usually humourous), and all accusers must disclose their names.

No participants ultimately get pied against their will, but Chmara insists that while this is just his second year chairing the event series, he's only ever witnessed positivity surrounding the fundraiser.

"I've never seen anyone actually freak out [about receiving a pie]; people are usually pretty good sports about it," Chmara said. "If nothing else, we tell them, 'it's for the children.'"

The group usually raises between $2,000 and $3,000 every spring, but this year, which marks the Order of Pi's 16th year running, organizers are hoping to surpass previous goals.

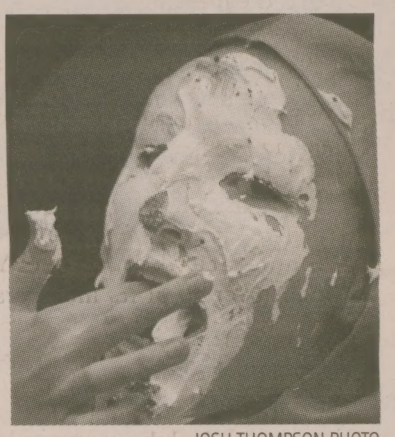
To help get the word out, a presacrificial pie-ing, held on Feb. 26, saw first-year engineering student Erica Slaughter receive a pie in the face for "never not being on Facebook."

As grand inquisitor Jason Heinrich read Slaughter her sentence and other members of the Order readied her for punishment, bystanders gawked in anticipation.

After the trial, a creamy-faced Slaughter looked on giggling at her accusers and the bystanders. Will the face pie-ing cure her of her relentless Facebook usage?

"Of course," Slaughter said. "This tastes really good though."

For more information or to sentence a pie, contact the Engineering Students' Society at 250-721-8822 or visit engr.uvic.ca/~pi.



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Erica Slaughter was pied in the face by the Order of Pi on Feb. 26, for "never not being on Facebook."**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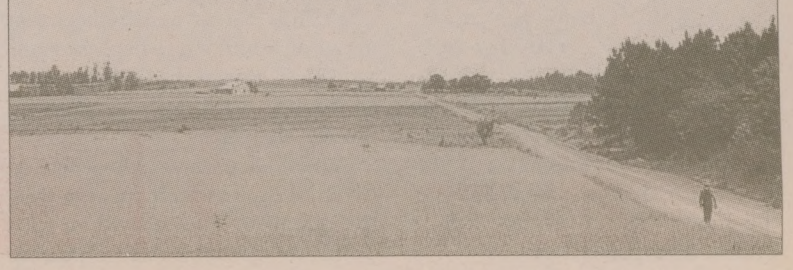


# Board rejects pro-life funds

## Youth Protecting Youth club wasn't informed funds were at stake

**Sam VanSchie**

The pro-life student club Youth Protecting Youth was denied clubs funding again by the UVic Students' Society, despite Clubs Council voting in favour of the group receiving funding.

In the fall, when YPY last sought funding, the majority at Clubs Council voted that YPY could be recognized as a club, but should not receive funding from students. That decision was upheld by the UVSS board of directors, which has the final say on funding issues.

At the time, all the executive members of the board said it was best to uphold the decision of Clubs Council.

"Those are students [on Clubs Council] telling us what they want," Director of Services Christine Comrie told the board last November. "We should support that majority and not overturn their decision."

But this term Comrie, who chairs clubs council, told the board the recent council vote was less representative of students' wishes because fewer clubs attended the meeting.

However, both meetings had 18 voting clubs. At the fall meeting only four clubs supported funding YPY, while in the more recent one a 12-club majority agreed they could have funds.

Comrie and other board members also said the meeting was undemocratic because YPY brought over 10 of its members to the meeting, as well as a reporter from a Christian media outlet, and students complained they felt intimidated to speak — though each club present only gets one vote on matters.

But YPY president Anastasia Pearse said people who wanted to vote against the club receiving funding did so. A majority supported their funding.

"We're really frustrated," said Pearse. "Clubs funding is for Clubs Council to decide on, not the UVSS."

Director of Academics Edward Pullman suggested at the board meeting that if they were unsure if the vote was democratic Clubs Council should have another opportunity to vote on it. Other board members said this would just put off making a decision that ultimately would come back to them anyway. Pullman's motion to send the question back to Clubs Council was defeated.

When the vote to deny funding came up, Pullman and Director-at-Large Dylan Hardie abstained. Meaghan Kerr and Erin Lacharity, the two directors-at-large who voted to give the club funding in the fall, were again the only ones who voted to give the club funding.

The remainder of members at the meeting voted as a majority to deny the club funding.

No member of YPY was present at the board meeting to defend the club's position. Pearse said she did not receive notice of the meeting, despite a point in clubs policy which states: "Clubs must be given one week notice of any Clubs Council or board of directors meeting where a complaint against them is to be heard, and must be allowed to attend and state their case."

However, there was no specific complaint filed against the club and the motion to deny funding was added mid-meeting by Luam Kidane, the board rep for the Students of Colour Collective.

> "Board members said the Clubs Council meeting was undemocratic because YPY brought over 10 of its members to the meeting. Students compalined they felt intimidated."

Comrie said after the meeting that the club should have known to attend the board meeting because the same process happened last semester.

But YPY changed presidents since last semester.

Pearse said the board also failed to notify them after the meeting that they wouldn't receive funding.

She was only informed of what happened by the Martlet, and subsequently contacted the board herself to appeal the decision at the next board meeting.

But Comrie said it's unlikely the board will overturn their decision.

"I don't think they'll go in favour of giving them funding," said Comrie. "Their feelings are pretty clear on this. We've discussed it so many times at different meetings."

While clubs do not have to comply with the students society's policy, the UVSS is mandated to support freedom of choice on the matter of abortion.

When YPY asked students at an Annual General Meeting in 2005 if they supported scrapping their pro-choice stance, more than 600 showed up to vote to uphold the mandate.

ANDREW SMITH PHOTOS

**Chair candidates (clockwise from top left) Curtis Smith, Veronica Harrison, Ryan Levis and Kyla Berry debate. Hear them at cfuv.uvic.ca.**

# Campaign mischief mild

**Kat Eschner**

Campaign shenanigans have been relatively mild this UVSS election, say candidates and election officials. Both parties placed a distinction between acceptable and unacceptable mischief.

Team BANG's YouTube advertisements garnered comment, especially an ad in which chair candidate Curtis Smith walked into current chair Caitlin Meggs' office when she was out. Smith said the incident was a joke which went off wrong.

"[The door] was supposed to be locked," Smith said. "To say, it wasn't my office yet."

Smith said he apologized to Meggs for the incident.

Team YES has also fielded a complaint for agreeing to be interviewed for an article about their paperless campaign, which ran in last week's edition of the Martlet. The complainant sought to disqualify the four-person slate, though as of press time Chief Electoral Officer Conrad Vanderkamp said no candidates had been disqualified since campaigning began.

"We've responded to that criticism," said YES chair-candidate Kyla Berry.

Independent chair candidate Ryan Levis said he hasn't seen much in the way of shenanigans.

"I ran into a couple of disqualification notices on silly grounds," Levis said. "Not too many shenanigans actually — it's been a really pleasant election."

Yet some campaign posters, including Team FAST posters on the MacLaurin Building, have been ripped down. But candidates say this happens every year.

"I don't think tearing things down helps anyone at all," said Vanderkamp, noting that it's difficult to identify culprits for this sort of campaign vandalism.

Team FAST chair candidate Veronica Harrison acknowledged that poster defacement is nothing new. She also noted the spoof posters for Team SLOW, however, which had been put up around campus. But, overall, she said, the campaign this year had been positive.

"It's good because it's not actually a smear campaign against individuals," she said.

The creativity which went into the spoof posters would be well used if the students involved put their talents to work for the UVSS, Harrison said.

Fake election posters advocating for Team POOF (a spoof on BANG) have also been put up around campus. Smith said he was glad other people were having some fun with the election.

"Apparently they portrayed me as a Chippendale dancer, which is kind of flattering, but they've clearly never seen me without a shirt on," Smith said.

Check martlet.ca for election results after the polls close on Friday, March 6.

# This week in Martlet history

**March 5, 1981** — All four executive positions and 12 director positions on the UVic Alma Mater Society were filled by acclimation in the uncontested elections held on campus. Three director positions remained unfilled since no one ran for them. The out-going vice-president of finance, Mark Beduz, said the fact that students didn't want to be involved as candidates reflected poorly on the executives and coucil, who didn't do enough to get students feeling like the AMS was theirs.

**March 2, 1989** — Despite low voter turnout, the newly named UVic Students' Society passed their proposed constitution with few amendments at their Annual General Meeting. Approximately 30 students debated changing the name of the Alma Mater Society to "student union." In the end, "society" was chosen over "union" because its connotation was more neutral. However, a motion to change the title of "president" to "chairperson" failed to receive a the necessary three-quarters vote to pass, so it failed.

Stories from the Martlet archives

**March 1, 2007** — UVic students called foul after learning about Conservative plans to let Internet service providers threaten Net neutrality by throttling bandwidth and blocking user access to sites they didn't like.

*- Cody Willett*

# Medical marijuana more legal, says court

**Andrew Farris**

The quasi-legal status of Victoria's compassion clubs may have come a step closer to resolution this week after a B.C. Supreme Court ruling declared parts of Canada's current medicinal marijuana laws unconstitutional.

The law, which forbids any supplier from distributing medical marijuana to more than one patient, has forced the non-profit clubs into operating illegally, despite the consent of Victoria's police.

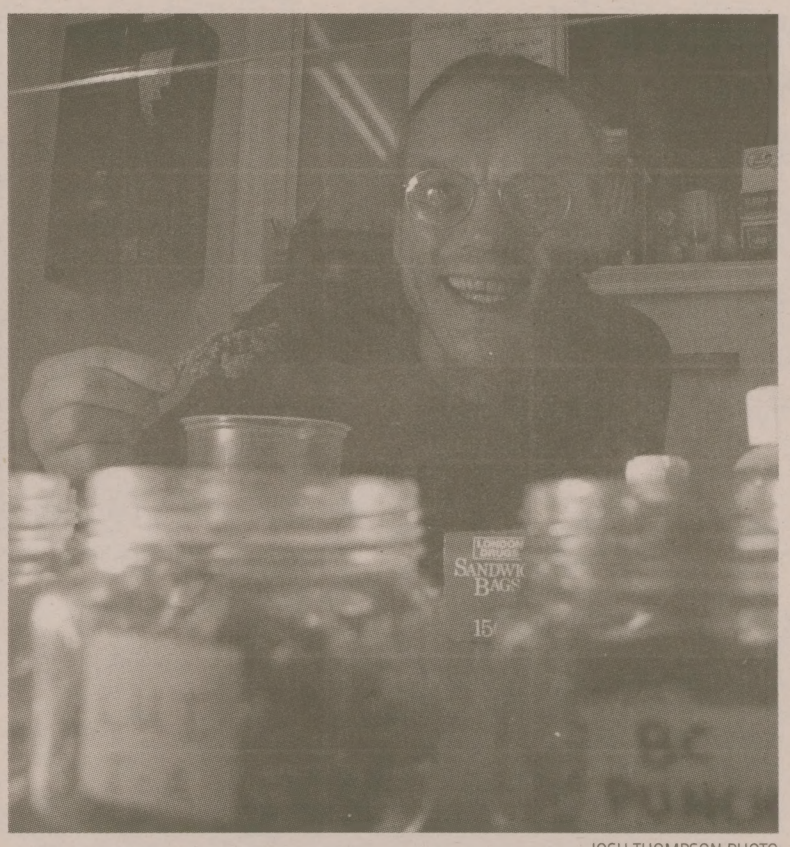
The judge has given Health Canada one year to review the laws and make it easier for purveyors of medicinal marijuana, both inside and outside the law, to keep patients supplied.

The verdict comes as a huge victory, especially for Mat Beren of the Vancouver Island Compassion Society (VICS). Beren was caught tending the VICS' grow-op in Sooke when police raided the facility in 2004 and confiscated 900 plants.

Although Beren was found guilty of growing and trafficking an illegal substance, the prosecution's demands for a stiff sentence were thrown out.

Instead, the judge completely discharged the conviction, meaning that there will be no penalty or criminal record because Beren had been growing the cannabis for the club.

This ruling brings into light the legal limbo in which many organizations such as VICS operate. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that marijuana, which is effective for easing the suffering of those with chronic conditions, is a constitutional medicine and the government has a responsibility to provide it to those with a doctor's prescription.



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Ted Smith shows off his product grown for the Cannabis Buyers Club.**

Mat Beren's defence made the case that the marijuana provided by the federal government, grown in a Manitoba mineshaft, was of poor quality and obtaining it meant jumping over "unnecessary bureaucratic delays or obstacles."

Philippe Lucas, the director of VICS, also pointed out that the federal application process can take weeks or months, time which can be ill-afforded by those who are in enough pain to warrant a medicinal marijuana prescription.

It was because of these regulatory hurdles and the inadequacy of the federal marijuana that the compassion clubs were able to spring into existence — VICS serves more than 850 doctor-referred patients on Vancouver Island. Justice Marvyn Koenigsberg ruled in Beren's case that while compassion clubs "enhanced other people's lives at minimal or no risk to society," they "did so outside any legal framework."

The onus to reform the legal framework lies not with the compassion clubs, which operate "openly, and with reasonable safeguards," but with Health Canada and the Canadian College of Physicians who failed to make medicinal marijuana sufficiently available for chronic sufferers, according to Koenigsberg.

Other compassion associations, like the Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC), a corollary of UVic's own Hempology 101 Society, have greeted the likely review of the laws surrounding clubs with enthusiasm.

The club has undergone six police raids on the CBC headquarters in Ted's Books in downtown Victoria, and the operators have spent several nights in jail, with the charges overturned by courts each time.

CBC spokesperson Kristen Mann said she'll welcome what a review could mean for the club, but notes that the system still needs many changes.

"Although we have been accepted by the Victoria Police and the B.C. courts, on a federal level we are still considered to be distributors of marijuana, which is illegal," Mann said.

# Turpin to speak at student forum on ethical governance

**Julia Munk**

The Ethical Governance Series at UVic has brought out many professors from different disciplines to speak on the responsibilities of government and leadership.

Grad Student Society Chair Nicole O'Byrne is delighted that next week's speaker will be UVic President David Turpin.

"I invited him after I heard our first speaker, Vic Murray, talk about the added value that board members create just by talking about their organizations wherever they happen to be," said O'Byrne. "The next day I was in a meeting with the president, so I talked about Ethical Governance; he was intrigued, and I invited him."

Earlier speakers included Dvora Levin, a consultant working in justice, health and social services and a founding member of ORG-AIDE, a team of leaders working to support non-profit excellence. As an activity, students wrote instant poems to connect with their own images of power.

"I found the group energetic, interesting and fun," Levin said.

Philosophy professor Susan Turner explained that the marrying of labels like "left wing" to "liberal" and "right wing" to "conservative" have only made people more confused about the political landscape and where they, and the figures who are supposed to represent them, fit into it.

Historically, right and left wing were used to describe economic positions, whereas liberal and conservative were used in regards to social values, Turner explained in her lecture. Therefore, it is quite possible to be a "liberal right wing" or a "conservative left wing."

"The Ethical Governance Series has been really exciting for us," said Kyla Berry, president of Access UVic and co-host of the series.

"We're looking forward to Turpin's presentation."

Turpin will be speaking on ethical governance on Wednesday, March 11, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Grad Centre, David Clode Room.

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# Students plot agricultural change

## Campus Urban Agriculture Collaborative hopes to produce food on stagnant UVic land

**Danielle Pope**

GOH IROMOTO PHOTO (THE UBYSSEY)

**Erika Mundel shows tobacco plants grown on UBC farm land by the Urban Aboriginal Unity Kitchen Garden Project. UVic's Campus Urban Argricultural Collaborative hopes UVic land might offer such opportunities.**

A plot of land at UVic may be growing controversy between students and the administration in the coming months, but if one campus club gets its way, the land's final planning stages could leave students looking forward to new opportunities for campus agriculture.

The old UVic farm, also referred to as the CJVI Lands, or the Cedar Hill Corner property, was sold to the university in the '80s and is currently being used as a dog-walking park for the community.

While the land has historically received many proposals from the community for its use (both developmental and agriculturally-minded), it remains stagnant.

But a recent move by the university to solidify short and long-term planning for the land this April has one group concerned that students will be left out of the decision making process.

"The land is worth a lot of money. UVic had over two decades [to do something with it] and still doesn't have a plan," said Meaghan Kerr, a lead organizer of the Campus Urban Agriculture Collaborative (CUAC), who fears the goal will be to develop the land. "The timing here is what's concerning. Other people get in the way when you want to make a decision."

CUAC (lovingly pronounced "quack" by members) began as a small student club a few years ago. Now the group boasts a membership of over 70 people with the main goal to better utilize the patch of land.

"UVic's strategic plan is to be a leader in sustainability, and right now it's behind — at least when it comes to agriculture," said Kerr. "We want to work with the administration to make UVic a leader not only in sustainability, but also food security and innovative learning tactics."

Kerr believes that UVic is concentrating on accommodating the outside community in the land's planning process (including dog walkers, residents and donors) as opposed to the student community.

However, UVic Sustainability Co-ordinator Sarah Webb says students were given an opportunity to have a say in what happens with the land by contributing to the Sustainability Action Plan, which was publicly available for feedback during its draft stages.

Now, as the plan goes through its third and final stage, those interested will be given more opportunities.

"The suggestion that students would not be involved is absolutely incorrect and contrary to the entire philosophy that we have been working with when it comes to the creation of [this action plan] for campus," Webb said.

The Sustainability Action Plan currently includes a commitment to "develop a management plan for University Cedar Hill Corner that will guide its use in the short term and the process for master plan preparation."

That management plan and the master plan would include consultations and submissions from stakeholders on campus and in the community, said Webb.

Miranda Cross, another lead organizer for CUAC, says that it's important that the planning process be done at a time when everyone is available for input — and also before others have a chance to get their hands on the land.

"Our main goal is to see the process open to students and that those viewpoints get heard," said Cross. "We're not demanding anything from the university, just asking for involvement because we see the land as a golden opportunity. We want to create dialogue about the opportunities that exist."

While CUAC hasn't given the university any specific proposals, Cross says the club's first tactic has been to network with the academic community.

This past month they've been recruiting the support of professors and students, and they plan to hold an event later in March to bring supporters together.

If the club does have influence in the land's development, members are hoping to see projects ranging from garden plots to a maintained orchard, all focused in permaculture — permanent agriculture that melds with current culture to create a sustainable form of "farming."

But that's just the beginning, says Kerr.

"Thirty acres of property is bigger than your average farm on the lower Island," Kerr said. "You can have dozens of projects going on at once — student housing, dog walking, fruit picking, teaching centres."

Currently, about 250 orchard apple trees occupy part of the land. Trees which, Cross says, are in dire need of pruning.

CUAC hopes the university will grant the group a permit in the next few weeks to work with experts and prune the trees due to the seasonal need. Then, come fall, the group wants to work with the community to harvest the fruit.

One idea, according to Cross, is the adopt-a-tree program. Different classes, groups and individuals in the university community would be responsible for caring for one of the trees, then reap the fruity rewards.

While the group may need a shed, some tools and ideally a location for holding classes, Kerr says the mission is to otherwise be self-sufficient. She hopes the university will see this as an easy way to implement strategies already in place.

"It's about taking courses that already exist and making them hands-on instead of classroom-based," she said.

Kerr said CUAC has received offers for funding from a variety of groups, including Trees For Tomorrow and the Environmental Responsibility Committee of the UVic Students' Society.

They've also been working with Campus Community Gardens to generate ideas for the use of land.

Kerr hopes the potential involvement will inspire a sense of community, among other things.

She sees CUAC's role as being a facilitator in that goal.

"For one thing, we could be the ones holding workshops on how to make jams and jellies," Kerr said. "It will enhance the academic experience of UVic and create a 'living laboratory.' We don't have to go far to learn about our surroundings, and it's adding to the greater community along with assisting in food security."

Food security is one of the main reasons CUAC takes on its mission.

"We realized that food security is a major issue, especially living on an island where we import such a high percentage of our food," Cross said. "Studies have shown that three days is all it would take to run out of food on Vancouver Island. That's scary. We need to be more reliant on our own resources, and this land could be a model for that."

Kerr says the first production goal for harvesting food off the land would be to participate in farmers' markets, then produce food for the Student Union Building, then the university community.

But it's up to the university how big the project gets, she says.

Kerr emphasizes that finding an appropriate use for the land will mean a lot not just to people in the community, but to current and future UVic students.

"As an Environmental Studies student I'm really interested in having an outdoor classroom and outdoor learning methods, as well as seeing a hub of activity for students," Kerr said. "And UVic can make money off this. High schoolers are really interested in finding a university with these options. It is a great opportunity."

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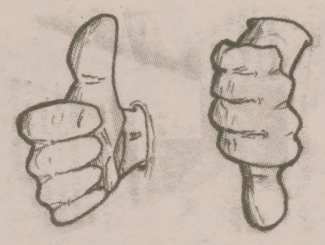


# News Reviews

### NAY!

The winner of the University of B.C.'s student society election, Blake Frederick, was disqualified earlier this month for exhibiting "slate" behaviour.

The society banned slates in 2004 because they were found to create too much division on their board.

According to a media release from the UBC Elections Committee, Frederick campaigned, postered and participated in classroom announcements together with a group of individuals who ran a very similar platform.

The committee ruled that he ran the campaign as part of a slate. Frederick had not appealed the decision by press time.

The winning candidate of the Carleton University student society was also disqualified this year, and losing candidates in the University of Ottawa student election are appealing the results of the vote.

### NAY!

A report by the Educational Policy Institute advocates that provincial governments should allow post-secondary institutions to increase tuition in order to offset the declining revenues caused by the current economic recession.

The report suggests that a 25 per cent increase in tuition, which would increase revenue to universities by $1 billion to $2 billion, will be needed to maintain current operational budgets over the next few years.

Alternatively, the EPI report said universities could expect hiring freezes, slashed library spending, fewer scholarships, deferred maintenance and bigger class sizes in the years to come.

### YAY!

The B.C. government launched its Homelessness Intervention Project this week, which will make a single ministry responsible for co-ordinating provincial and community social housing and support services, including health and income assistance for the chronically homeless in five communities. This is expected to improve current service gaps and enable resources to be focused where they will be most effective.

The goal of the project is to reduce chronic homelessness by aligning several government ministries, health authorities, the non-profit sector and other agencies that work toward the same goal.

To kick-start the project, B.C. Housing has made 250 units of housing available immediately, with approximately 40 of those in Victoria.

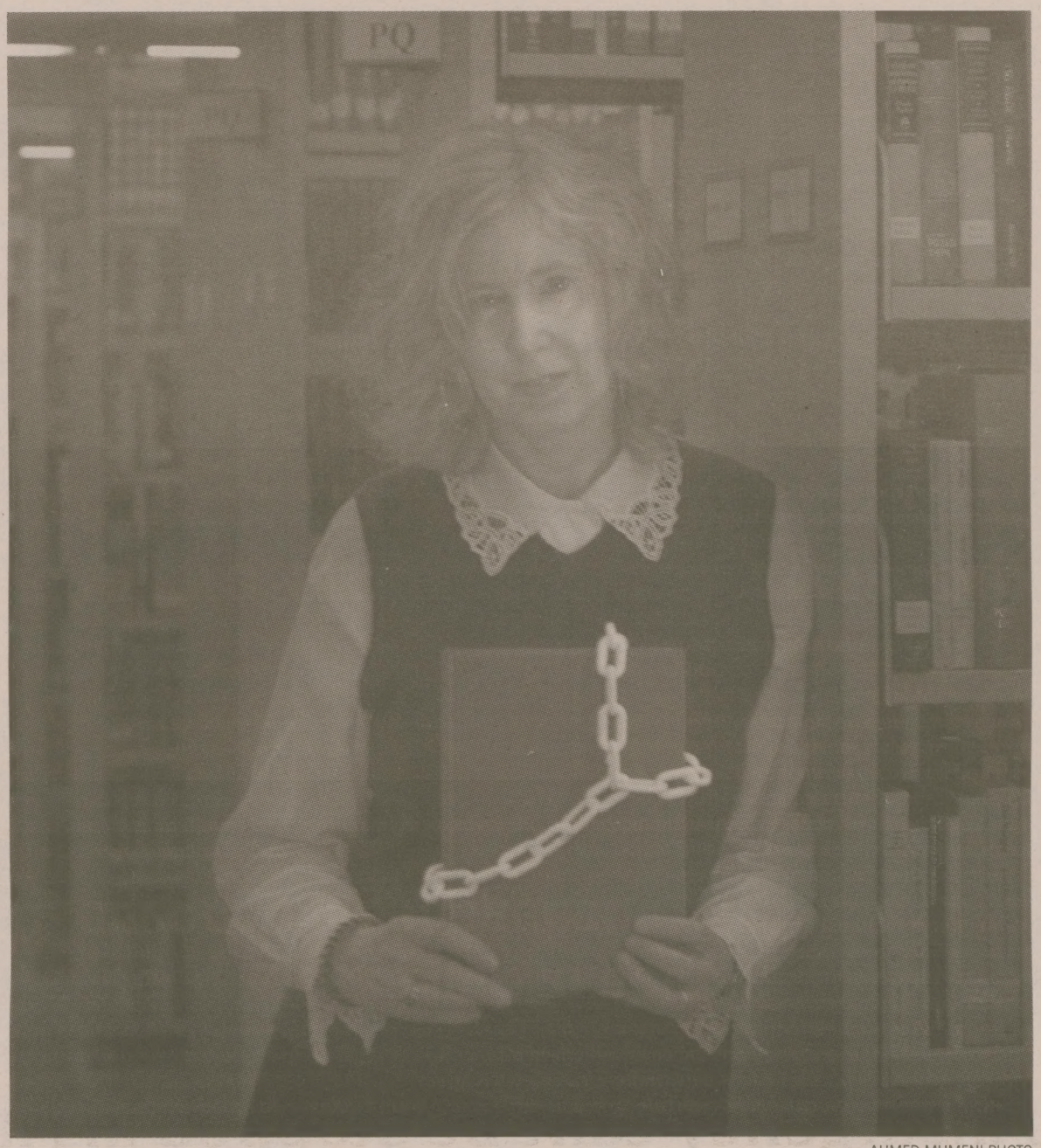
### NAY!

Victoria's A Channel has cut 18 jobs and cancelled its morning show as part of a restructuring by parent company CTV, which faces anticipated losses of $100 million this year.

*- Sam VanSchie*

# UVic celebrates freedom to read

Kim Magi



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

**UVic librarian Susan Henderson shows off part of her banned books display during Freedom to Read Week.**

If all the books on the Top 100 Challenged/Banned Books list had been successfully censored, chances are you wouldn't have read the majority of books assigned to you back in high school.

The list, provided by the American Library Association, contains classroom staples considered classics by many — such as The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Snow Falling on Cedars and Of Mice and Men — that have also offended people enough to challenge them. The list was compiled from 3,869 challenges.

"It can be any adult deciding for whatever reason [that a book offends them]," said Susan Henderson of UVic Libraries. She added that usually a book will be challenged out of anxiety or fear.

"The sensors are ordinary people," Henderson explained. "The sensor is not a monster."

Last week, Henderson spearheaded the 25th anniversary of Freedom to Read Week at UVic — an event held all across Canada — by chaining selected titles of books from the list in a display on the main floor of the McPherson Library.

"The freedom to read is the freedom to decide for ourselves," she said, explaining that libraries provide materials to satisfy everyone in the community, so there will always be choices considered unpopular to some.

"If something offends you, turn it off or put it down," said Jeff Marchi, high school English teacher at Spectrum Community School. "Don't assume we all share the same delicate sensibilities."

The Harry Potter series, ranked number one on the Top 100 list, was publicly challenged in 2003 in Moscow after a woman from the International Foundation for Slavic Writing and Culture claimed the series "instilled religious extremism and prompted students to join religious organizations of Satanist followers."

The series, however, was a favourite of fourth-year UVic English and writing student Kaley Walls growing up.

"I don't know whether I was too young to miss what was so bothersome to some, but I never once felt my moral basis compromised," she said. "If anything, the underlying theme of the power of love and friendship to thwart evil has remained with me over the years."

Many other books for children have been challenged over the years, including Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* series for only portraying "middle-class" rabbits, Henderson said. Another challenge involving children's literature was a 1959 protest by the White Citizens' Council in Alabama which fought to have the book, The Rabbits' Wedding, put on the reserved shelf because it was thought to promote racial integration.

"What is frightening about book banning is that such a blatant form of censorship brings out how much our society is driven by fear," said Emily Murphy, a fourth-year English student at UVic. "Books represent a tangible representation of knowledge and ideas, and those ideas can directly challenge what values are held by dominant social forces."

Henderson, who previously worked as a librarian at a public library in Richmond, said that when people tried to challenge a book with her, she would ask them if they had finished the book. Often, they had not.

"Most of these books are not even illustrated," Henderson said. "It's just words on a page. And it's your own imagery that you're creating for these words."

The Gossip Girl series, which are books targeted at teenage girls, is also on the Top 100 list. The television show, which features drug abuse, teen pregnancy and bullying, hasn't received as much flack as the books, which could be considered much tamer.

"[Books] are a physical object that you can make a symbol [of]," Henderson said, "because books will burn."

And there is no complaint too big or too small for book review committees.

A 1993 challenge of *The Catcher in the Rye* went through on the grounds that it is "centered around negative activity."

"People think there is a ... stage where we can remain innocent," said Henderson.

In January, Toronto's public school board was forced to review Canadian author Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale* after a parent complained about its sexual nature and criticism of religious fundamentalism.

In Canada, our writers can safely publish, Henderson said.

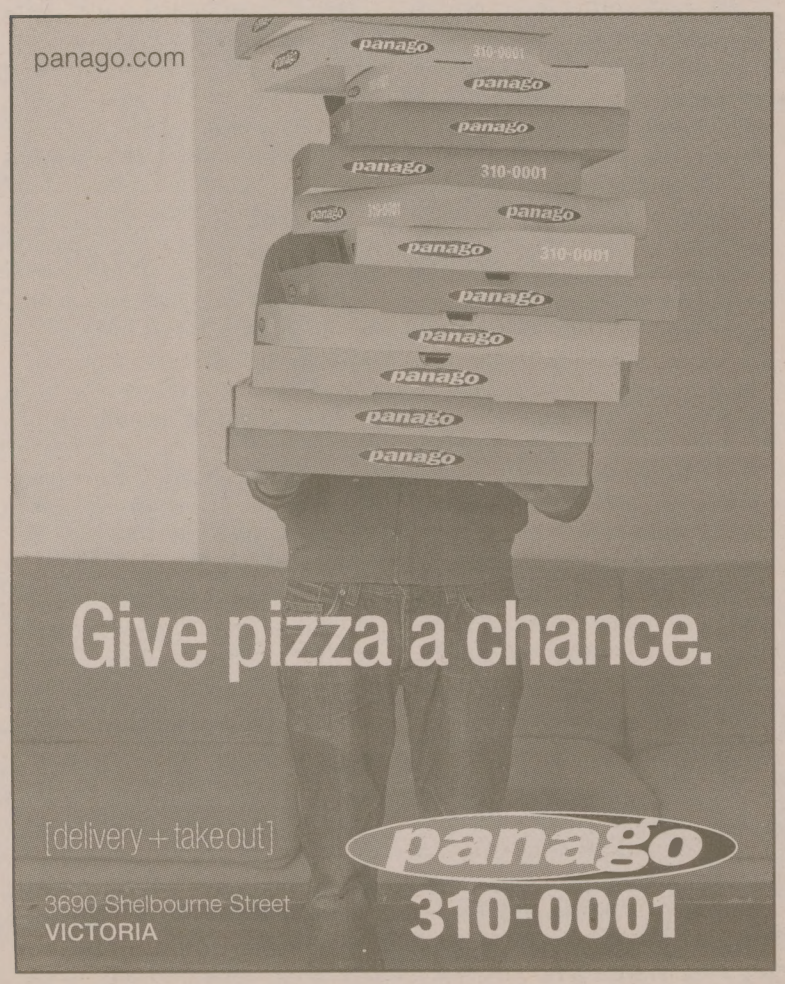
Freedom to Read Week is held every February across Canada.

The U.S. will hold their version, Banned Books Week, from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3 this year.

## BURN BAIT

Has your favorite book faced banishment or burning? See the top ten candidates below.

1. Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling
2. Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
3. The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
4. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
5. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
6. Scary Stories by Alvin Schwartz
7. Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers
8. It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris
9. And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
10. Captain Underpants by Dave Pilkey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# Funeral for education hopes to get Liberal attention

**Scott Daly**

Student groups and campus unions are gearing up to hit the streets on March 5 for the First Annual Funeral Procession for Public Education protest.

Organizers hope that the rallies planned at UVic and downtown will highlight what they say is the chronic underfunding of public post-secondary education by the provincial Liberal government.

"We want to draw attention to the fact that education is under siege in our province," said Craig Ashbourne, protest organizer and chair of the Political Action Committee of CUPE 4163. "This year will be the first year ever that student tuition will be a larger source of revenue than corporate taxes in the province. I don't think most people realize that funding per student has actually gone down from about $8,100 a few years ago to about $7,100 now."

The protest will have two parts. The first, a rally at UVic in front of the McPherson Library fountain at noon, will collect petitions and letters, which will then be put into a coffin that is meant to symbolize the hopes and dreams of current and future students. After the coffin arrives downtown, at 3 p.m. it will be carried along a route from Centennial Square down Government Street until it is finally delivered to the legislature.

Representatives from the UVic Students' Society, the Grad Students' Society, the three main workers' unions at UVic, representatives from Camosun and the opposition NDP, including NDP leader Carole James, are expected to attend.

"The government often tries to set people apart," said Ashbourne. "What we want to show is that we're all in this together — students, faculty, the university administration, workers. We are all affected by these cuts."

Organizers say they chose a funeral-themed demonstration for both its memorable theatrical component as well as its symbolism for the death of public education.

The government has countered claims that it has underfunded post-secondary education by pointing to a 39 per cent increase in operating funding over the last five years, including a $244 million boost in the 2009/2010 budget presented last month. But Ashbourne says that these increases have not kept up with the increases in enrollment that universities have been expected to fulfill.

"If we continue to shortchange post-secondary education, it will not truly be public anymore if the public can't access it," he said.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Kimi Kupczyk (left) and Craig Ashbourne blame the government for the death of public education.**

AFGHAN UPDATE

# Harper says insurgency can't be stopped in Afghanistan

**Cody Willett**

The Taliban insurgency can't be defeated by NATO soldiers, according to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper's interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria aired on March 1, days after U.S. President Barack Obama outlined plans to draw troops in Iraq and deploy them to Afghanistan.

The admission was Harper's bluntest assessment yet of Canada's combat role, which has claimed the lives of 109 Canadian soldiers since 2002, making it Canada's most deadly mission since the Korean War. The Conservative government has totaled the direct costs of the war at $11.3 billion — a figure that doesn't include indirect costs such as wear and tear on equipment or long-term health costs for veterans.

"We're not going to win this war just by staying ... [From] my reading of Afghanistan history, it's probably had an insurgency forever, of some kind," said Harper in reference to Afghani resistance to the Soviet invasion of 1979 and to colonial British rule that ended with Afghan independence in 1919.

Harper's admission follows a deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan's southern regions. In Kandahar province, an area of increasing Taliban influence, the insurgency has been fueled by Taliban and al-Qaeda operations based in northern Pakistan — lately, it has been the focus of bombings by unmanned aerial drones and bombardment by the Pakistani military.

However, peace negotiations have begun between the Taliban and Pakistan's fragile government. On Feb. 24, the Taliban leadership in Pakistan's Swat region announced a ceasefire agreement with Pakistani government which would allow the Taliban to institute Islamic Sharia law in Swat.

As Pakistan's politically unstable government struggles to maintain control of its tribal north and negotiates with the Taliban, NATO forces are gearing up to create secure conditions for national elections in Afghanistan later in 2009.

Such elections, like those being held in Iraq in Dec. 2009, are but one test of the West's success so far in planting democratic seeds in the Middle East. How much reconstruction and development aid reaches Afghanis in the wake of the global financial meltdown will be decided by the winner of the upcoming elections, the date of which is now uncertain.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has called for the elections to be moved from August to April because his term expires on May 21. Karzai issued a decree on Feb. 28 that said the Afghani constitution should be respected. Article 61 of the constitution says that the election must take place at least one month prior to the end of a sitting president's term.

The move was denounced by opposing presidential candidates, Afghanistan's Election Commission and NATO personnel on the grounds that holding a snap election would be unfair to unprepared presidential challengers and not give NATO's International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) time to secure the campaign environment.

The deployment of 17,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan isn't scheduled to be complete until early summer.

Although Obama did not ask Harper to extend Canada's Afghan combat mission end-date past 2011, he has encouraged NATO members and allies to pledge troops for Afghan election security. Obama has maintained that while he is committing more U.S. soldiers, the problem of Afghanistan, the Taliban and the spread of extremism cannot be solved solely through military means.

Although Harper didn't go so far as to suggest that Pakistan's approach of negotiating with the Taliban is something NATO countries should contemplate, his comment that the insurgency can't be defeated runs contrary to Obama's Feb. 17 statement that the war in Afghanistan is "still winnable."

Harper's candid statements come in advance of a NATO summit to be held in April, where Obama will be pressing European allies for larger troop commitments. Since Canada has been one of the only countries willing to send its ISAF soldiers into the Taliban's southern Afghanistan heartland, Harper's assertion that western armies can't claim victory risks weakening NATO resolve and helping Obama's request go unsatisfied.

However, Harper did point out that while western governments and soldiers can't ensure security or help govern Afghanistan forever, he believes that finishing the job of training Afghanistan's army and police force will create conditions where Afghanis can take ownership of their country.

He said that their security, government and economic future lies with a fully sovereign Afghanistan that can defend itself and provide for its people without growing poppies and exporting opium.

"Ultimately, the source of authority in Afghanistan has to be perceived as being indigenous," Harper said. "If it's perceived as being foreign, it will always have a significant degree of opposition."

## CIVICS SPIELS

"I just think the appetite in the country for [attack ads] is almost nil and I think the Conservatives risk really angering people."

– Bob Rae, MP for Toronto Centre, on talk that the Conservatives are going to launch attack ads against Michael Ignatieff

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EDITORIAL

# Shenanigans not so mild in UVSS

The UVSS elections are coming to a climactic close this week, and there's only a short time left until we find out who our new elected officials will be this coming year — or so we think.

With campaign shenanigans and election complaints potentially causing disqualification for various candidates, it could be days after the results are in before we find out who the true (or the default) winners really are.

Before campaigning even started last month, one candidate, Ali Lee of Team BANG, was disqualified for pre-campaigning. Since things got underway, there have been a cross-section of complaints ranging from accusations of campaigning just minutes too early, to postering on painted surfaces (not allowed by the university), to posters exceeding size limitations, to handbills sitting in a pile as opposed to being handed out according to regulation.

However, Chief Electoral Officer Conrad Vanderkamp says that no candidates have faced disqualification since campaigning started, though there have been a few warnings. Yet this year's grumbles are nothing out of the ordinary, and Vanderkamp says the dozen or so formal complaints that have come in so far are to be expected — that's not to say they're all merited, or that some aren't just from cranky candidates trying to get a leg up on the competition. Everybody plays by the same rules, says Vanderkamp. But do they really?

Independent chair candidate Ryan Levis was accused of violating poster regulations with his large staked signs popping up all around campus, while Team YES was criticized for campaigning via a publication when an article in the last issue of the Martlet about paperless campaigning exposed the team's use of apples instead of flyers.

However, each candidate gets $25 per person to campaign in any way they see fit (and slates are allowed to pool their funds). Since Levis' wooden-stick and paper posters are under the $25 limit, he's home free. And since the Martlet article was about campaigning paperlessly, not about the YES team, the electoral office deemed them innocent too.

Complaints are kept anonymous (there goes accountability out the window), and it isn't always possible to find or charge the offenders (like some students who committed a major offence by tearing down a swath of Team FAST posters in various locations around campus). But the candidates who are accused do have to answer for the complaints against them — a charged minor offence results in a "slap on the wrist" warning, while a major offence could result in immediate disqualification.

But while someone like Levis could have received a minor offence for his postering tendencies (five warnings result in a disqualification), if the complaint against Team YES was successful it would have resulted in a major offence, equalling instant disqualification. Simple enough.

But the ugly wrinkle here could be found in the complaint and appeal process. Initial complaints are first taken to the deputy electoral officers, then the chief electoral officer to be ruled on. Yet if an accuser (or the accused) is unsatisfied with what the chief decides, the decision can be appealed by taking that complaint to the Electoral Committee of the UVSS, then the UVSS Board of Directors. Seems logical — except when you consider the committee is comprised of current board members Tracy Ho, Stafford Richter and Gary Dawson-Quatell — or that appealing to the board of directors would mean appealing to a collection of Team FAST members. Does anyone else smell that conflict of interest?

Apparently the stench is so ripe, that the current board moved to present an alternate bylaw at a general board meeting earlier in the year to create an independent complaints committee. But the meeting didn't make quorum, and the bylaw lost its chance. Seems like a pertinent time to try again, kids.

Vanderkamp said that as the chief electoral officer most of the complaints have stopped with him, but one complaint about pre-campaigning is undergoing the appeal process. That means, if the complaint is sucessful, an elected member of the board could be disqualified after being voted in — but then again, maybe not. It all comes down to what (or who) is fair.

"The referee's job is not to find fault, but to keep the game going," Vanderkamp said. "Whenever possible, you interpret the regulations to keep things fluid."

And fluid is how we can only hope the "games" will stay until we secure a system that's a little less controversial, and a little more just.

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Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

JAYWALKERS GET THEIR COMEUPPANCE

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

## LETTERS

### Thank you, Martlet

As the Chair candidate running a paperless campaign with my slate (YES!) I was delighted when the Martlet ran a news article about us last week. I was less delighted to learn that one of our opponents has filed a complaint to disqualify us on the grounds that we should have known the Martlet reporter intended her article to "campaign" for us. I'm sure the Martlet news editor, Sam Van Schie, considered the fun and innovative paperless aspect of my campaign genuinely newsworthy. Should another slate come up with anything original, no doubt the campus newspaper will write about it.

My whole slate agreed it didn't feel right to print up hundreds of leaflets so we're handing out green apples and talking to students instead. It's a risk, but it seemed more respectful to the environment and to our fellow students.

*Kyla Berry*
*YES chair candidate*

### Choose a qualified director

In the current UVSS elections, students will vote for 15 people to represent them and work for them on the students' society board. Four of these positions are executive directors who are paid around $27,000 per year. The position of Finance Director is especially important since it involves managing the money we pay in fees to our student society.

One of the three candidates for Director of Finance, Edward Pullman, has publicly admitted he has no educational credentials for the job.

In contrast, candidate Teresa Sims is a fourth-year business student with multiple finance and accounting courses under her belt, and work experience with course unions, Model United Nations and the provincial government. Candidate Justin Levine is a third year Public Administration student specializing in non-profit organizations.

When you vote for UVSS Director of Finance, you are in essence hiring him or her to manage our collective financial resources. Would you hire a personal accountant without the relevant credentials? Our student society is currently operating at a loss and desperately needs more professional management. On March 4, 5 and 6 remember to vote for a qualified Director of Finance. It's your money.

*David J. A. Foster*
*UVic student*

### Proud of UVSS' work

Last week, an article took a baseless swipe at the current UVSS Board of Directors, claiming it has done nothing to make the SUB more sustainable.

The truth is the UVSS has made progress on sustainability this year.

Board members have shaped the University's Sustainability Policy and Action Plan. We are working with UVic to increase composting capacity, increase local food options, and phase out disposables on campus. We will be installing new public water fountains in the SUB.

Board members elected this past year ensured the UVSS partnered with the Land Conservancy and Madrona Farms on an education campaign on farmlands in Victoria, and held a fundraiser for Madrona Farms. We hosted the Students for Sustainability Tour and worked with the Council of Canadians to increase awareness of the environmental impact of the privatization of water. We are also working with Campus Community Gardens and we are working with the SPOKES Bicycle Bursary program to increase awareness of its service and expand its space.

I am proud of our record on environmental sustainability; but I am even prouder that the hard work of this year's Board of Directors has ensured the UVSS's definition of sustainability is broader than just the environment.

Theres always more to do, but it starts by honouring and building on the work that's come before.

*Veronica Harrison*
*FAST chair candidate*

### UVSS attacks free speech

UVic Clubs Policy states, "Clubs must be given one week's notice of any Clubs Council or Board of Directors meeting where a complaint against them is to be heard and must be allowed to attend and state their case" (F:3). In order to deny a club funding I would hope there would be a specific complaint brought against the club, and then discussed. Youth Protecting Youth was not notified of any such complaint before the UVSS Board overturned the Club's decision and denied YPY funding for this semester.

Last semester the Clubs voted against giving YPY funding; YPY appealed to the UVSS Board of Directors but they did not make any changes to the Club's decision.

To quote a past Martlet article, "Director of Services Christine Comrie, who facilitates Clubs Council, said the board should never overturn the decision of Clubs Council ... If they don't want club funding to go to this club, it's up to them. It's their money" (Oct 8, 2008).

The Board seems to be carrying out a policy of arbitrarily silencing any pro-life point of view. Do we want to live in a society where people abuse their power to silence opposing points of view?

*Anastasia Pearse*
*President, Youth Protecting Youth*

### Support a proven track record

I find it really funny that Jose Barrios, candidate for UVSS Director of Services, thinks the SUB strike was avoidable. I mean, has he forgotten his role in the whole ordeal? Mr. Barrios was heavily involved in dragging out the strike as long as possible, while refusing to negotiate a reasonable compromise amidst a worsening recession. Team FAST has been working hard for students on issues like public transit, tuition fees, housing, and sustainability. The choice is a no-brainer. We should be supporting the proven track record of Team FAST and not a candidate who misrepresents his own actions.

*Josh Mason*
*UVic student*

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**Enraged? Engaged?**

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**Martlet (SUB B 011)**
**P.O. Box 3035**
**University of Victoria**
**Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P3**

**Newsroom: 250.721.8360**
**Editor: 250.853.3206**
**Business: 250.721.8361**
**Advertising: 250.721.8359**
**Fax: 250.472.4556**
**www.martlet.ca**

# UVSS defies free speech again

**Monica Murphy**

Christine Comrie claims that the UVSS board's denial of funding to Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) is based on "arguments made by the board last fall." I find this claim rather confusing. At both UVSS Board meetings last semester, Comrie (along with many other members of the board) stridently championed the prerogative of Clubs Council to make the final funding decision.

To quote Comrie: "[Clubs Council] should make the decision. Clubs Council is invested with making this decision because the money is allocated to them to determine who should be given funding. I think it's totally within their jurisdiction for them to make these decisions; [especially] ... after the fact that we had already sent it back to them for decision" (board meeting, Nov. 3, 2008). Further, several board members said that to overturn the council's decision would "delegitimize democracy."

Has the board's understanding of the council's role changed, or does it merely fluctuate based on what members of the council want?

YPY does not deny that the board has the authority to overturn council decisions. It was upon the basis of such authority that YPY appealed the council's decision last semester. However, it is curious (to say the least) that the board stubbornly refused to exercise its authority when to do so would mean funding in favour of YPY, yet suddenly reverses this policy when the exercise of authority coincides with the board's own ideological aims.

Moreover, the board has denied YPY the opportunity to speak in its own defense. Neither Comrie nor any other member of the board informed YPY prior to the board meeting that its funding was at risk or was even going to be discussed. YPY learned about the decision only through questions from a Martlet reporter. In contrast, at YPY's final appeal last fall, the board made a point of ensuring that the pro-choice club would be represented.

Perhaps our current board found it politically inconvenient to consider such inconsequential things as due process.

The board claims that it has not unjustly discriminated against YPY and that it is not attempting to restrict freedom of speech. It is true that the UVSS approved all of the YPY posters that were displayed. Consider, however, board director Edward Pullman's public statement that YPY's funding should depend directly on not using those same posters again.

Consider that these posters — the very ones the UVSS had approved — were suddenly found to promote "ambient violence" once an opportunity to deny YPY funding arose. Consider the board's unannounced review and reversal of the council's recent decision in favour of YPY.

GLEN O'NEIL GRAPHIC

> "Courtesy of the UVSS board, we have been nationally recognized as a place that can be characterized as the very antithesis of intellectual freedom. Good work, UVSS."

There is every reason to believe that, in this matter, we are confronted by the actions of a group of people who have abused their office and authority in order to privilege viewpoints they find acceptable and restrict or suppress those that they dislike.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, a strongly pro-choice organization, recently cited UVic as "a fairly typical" example of how freedom of speech for pro-life groups has been unjustly restricted — "an outcome [that] represents the very antithesis of intellectual freedom." The actions of groups such as the UVSS board raise the "considerable risk that raw political power will determine the scope of permissible campus speech."

This, then, is the reputation of UVic. Courtesy of the UVSS board, we have been nationally recognized as a place that can be characterized as the very antithesis of intellectual freedom.

Good work, UVSS.

# Perspectives from a current board member

**Ahmed Mumeni**

It's that time of year again. The banners are up, the leaflets are being handed out and people are harassing you as you walk to class. It must be election season.

Among other things, you are being promised affordable education, better transit service, a tight-knit community and the financial and environmental sustainability of your student society. As a realist, I refuse to believe that any of these fools can actually deliver on their promises.

When I was campaigning for a position as a director-at-large last year, I refused to run on a self-aggrandizing, narcissistic platform of reducing our impact on the planet, getting Canadian troops out of Afghanistan, or even lowering tuition fees. In essence, I brought nothing to the table but common sense and my experience as a UVic student.

While I can see why BANG and YES would use the "green" creed during this campaign (to appeal to the ecomentalists and hipsters), a retrofit of the Student Union Building would cost thousands of dollars. That is money that the student society does not have.

On Jan. 27, Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveiled the federal budget for this upcoming fiscal year. That money trickles down directly to the provinces. I'm sorry to report that our government has not made any significant contributions toward post-secondary education. How can TeamFAST seek re-election based on their campaign promise of affordable education? The same people have campaigned on similar platforms before, but not much has changed during the time they have held office.

> "The UVSS has turned into nothing but a bloated, bureaucratic, left-winged clique that is unorganized, unimaginative and completely out of touch with the student body."

While I may not agree with all of the campaign platforms, there are a few points that I would agree with. Being on the tail end of my time at UVic, I take with me not only memories of challenging classes and workloads, but also memories of spending lots of time with students. Campus spirit, in my opinion, exists.

If you've been to a Vikes basketball game on a Friday night, or a Vikes rugby game on a Saturday afternoon, you would know what I'm talking about. You would know that the full crowds that come out to cheer on our Vikes are vibrant and electric. To the candidates who pontificate for better campus spirit, I would be curious as to whether they would have a SUB-centric or campus-centric approach and solution to this key issue.

The current administration (myself included) has failed to develop an appealing, or lasting impression on the students we represent. Issues of transparency still exist, the UVSS website sucks and there is a distinct lack of outreach. Tracy Ho recently blamed the Martlet for the lack of coverage of the work of the UVSS. I would refute that it is ultimately up to the student society and the elected board members to ensure that the campus knows what they've been up to. Maybe that way we would have more than just the dismal statistic of 10 to 15 per cent voter-turnout.

Seriously, how hard can it be to inform students of seats that need to be filled on important committees? Perhaps the first step would be to publish meeting times on more than just a bulletin board in an obscure corner of the SUB. How about having a website that actually provides recent and relevant information?

The UVSS has turned into nothing but a clique; a bloated, bureaucratic, left-winged clique that is unorganized, unimaginative, uninspiring and completely out of touch from the student body it is supposed to represent. During the four years I've been at UVic, the UVSS has gotten itself into controversy after controversy. It's getting old, and embarrassing.

By re-electing the current administration, we are only doing the UVSS more harm than good. It's time for new blood. What the UVSS really needs are talented, creative and driven individuals who are not jaded by old politics. And there is plenty of that in the offering of students who are campaigning so hard during these elections.

For students who are annoyed by the student elections, chill out — it'll only be a few more days until the elections are over. While that chump who stands in front of your class may give a boring speech, perhaps they have a decent message to pass on to you. Should you decide to be apathetic toward the elections, you have no right to complain about the state of your student society or your incoming student leaders.

Should you decide to place your apathy aside, inform yourself, pay attention to the message that is being given to you and vote on March 4, 5 and 6. Maybe for once, we can have someone who is decently competent in charge of the UVSS.

# People don't dance anymore

**Katie Fritz**

The only place that people try to dance en masse is at night clubs. And once you get past the make-up, the cleavage, and the eye-fucks, clubs are great. An ultimate workout. Punching the air, kicking your feet. Head-banging. Costumes. Carrying glitter in your pocket and sprinkling it on people. High-fiving anyone with a hand. Puking in the corner and wiping your mouth, then tossing yourself back into the fray.

Liquor and dancing are great social lubricants, and thanks to their consumption people love each other at these places — sometimes literally. But people are often forced to dance in groups as a means of defense. It seems like you can't get low without it being perceived as an invitation to perform oral sex.

My roommate Andrea sticks out in a club. Minimal make-up and loose jeans, a beater. She's like a baby bird stuck in a sub-woofer. Her eyes are narrowed as she dances with us, surely thinking "ugh, this club. I hate clubs. What a waste of materials this place is. Ugh. I can't handle this. Fuck you Katie, why did you suggest this?"

And then some guy gets an idea in his head, checkin' out this disinterested beauty — the sexiest kind of club girl. The prize to be won. He yells over the music to his bro. "That chick is hot and and flirting with me. It's so loud in here. Let's two-step and snap. Girls like that. Let's surround them. Girls like that. Don't look them in the eye, you'll scare 'em. Okay, bob to the left. Now right. Mmmmm, asses. No, man. Don't let them pass."

My other roommate, Stella, is gorgeous. She could power our stove if she distilled her hotness into raw energy, and if she were in Sciences she'd have done that by now. But she's not a chemist. She's a Women Studies major.

At the club, she'll put her eyes on STUN and burst your soul with a gaze that says, with perfect articulation: "I see you eyeing me and dividing my body as if it were pieces of meat to sell to the butcher. Drink it in. You may buy me a fruity cocktail and have intelligent conversation. You may also dance with me so long as you don't sneak up behind me like a badger. Do not turn my ass to pulp with your incessant grind. I will not act out your fantasy of faceless domination! But look! Smile! I'm smiling! I'm so approachable!"

Yesterday in class, I asked Stella if she was excited to go out this Friday.

"Pff! No." She slapped her books on her desk and sat, dejected.

"What? Why?" This was unlike her. Usually Stella likes going out, even more so when we start getting ready and choreographing dance routines.

She sighs heavily and looks over her shoulder. Leans in close to me and huffs. "Look. If I'm not going to gain any validation as a sexual being, then what the hell is the point?"

You see, dancing is one thing. Being sexually assaulted from behind by an unidentified molester in a very dark, very loud room is another. There is a ninety-nine percent chance that you look like a rapist, and that doesn't make a girl feel sexy, it makes her feel hunted. My third room-mate, K-Chan doesn't seem to mind. A boy may approach her all sweaty and thrusting, but she simple ignores him and revels in the fact that he is being very improper and ungentlemanly.

GLEN O'NEILL GRAPHIC

You look stupid, bobbling around behind us. Ask us our names. We have them. Dance with us without touching for a minute. It's cute, and we don't expect it. Ask us if you may "have this dance."

Clubs get a bad rap because dancing has given way to mating. Gussied up twenty-somethings hustling up behind one another like guerillas in the jungle, or vampires in a sexy teen novel. They come up behind their chosen target and tuck their neck into the crook of their shoulder. They breathe heavily. Clubs are moist, and suction is the natural by-product. The pair, or trio (depending on whose birthday it is) bounces their weight from foot to foot and grates ass to crotch, thigh, face.

Maybe I should stop bitching about the bed-buddy hunt in clubs. The sexy-eyes ritual is probably the most foreplay the wasted, boot-banging twosome are going to get before they drunkenly insert. Just leave some room in the middle of the room for some kids to dance. There are dark corners to make out in.

# Facebook phenomenon inspires introspection

## 25-things list becomes international sensation

**Kayla Hart**

**#1.** When I was really little, I had a homemade doll named Katie Bay. When I was four, I got mad at her and bit her crocheted foot, which pulled out my first tooth. I'm not sure why I was mad at her at that specific moment, but I do know that at one point, I was convinced she had kicked me off the bed.

**#2.** My all-time favorite show is Joan of Arcadia. In the height of my obsession, I wrote, filmed and edited a short mockumentary about my obsession for a film class, which I also starred in as an over-exaggeration of myself.

**#3.** From September 2006 to August 2007, I had two cell phones at the same time, both on contracts. It seemed like a good idea at the time.

**#4.** When I was four or so, I won a real white rabbit and named her Fluffy Bunny Wunny Foo Foo.

**#5.** I once laughed for two full hours straight.

I think you get the point. You would be surprised at what you can learn about your friends through the latest Facebook phenomenon.

We've all seen survey-style notes on our Facebook news feeds, designed to help you get to know your friends. They're often the same ones we've also received through e-mail for years. But usually, only a handful of people pass them on or steal them from their friends, often ignoring the "obligation" to pass a note on if they've been tagged. This note, however, has taken Facebook by storm.

At least 79 of my Facebook friends have done it. This includes an almost 60-year-old woman who runs a health food store in my hometown, as well as my 16-year-old cousin, and my eighth-grade drama teacher. Titles include the obvious "25 Random Things," as well as "The Epidemic of 25 Random Things," "25 random things madness continues," "25 reasons to procrastinate... or something like that," and "Let's pretend she's not conforming."

What makes this note different from all the others is its simplicity. Unlike all the other quiz notes, this one has no intrusive questions to answer. Better yet, there are no questions to answer, period. All you have to do is make a list of 25 random facts about yourself and tag 25 friends. You can be as personal, or stay as secretive as you want. It's both harder than it sounds, and more rewarding than you'd expect.

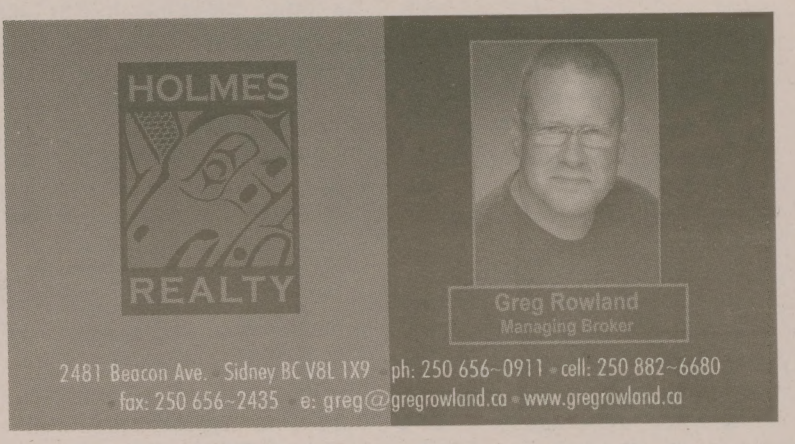
The lack of intrusive, personal questions is having quite the opposite effect, however. People are being extremely honest. I've learned more from reading these lists than I ever did by reading whether so-and-so prefers chocolate or vanilla, or what their relationship status was last Valentine's Day.

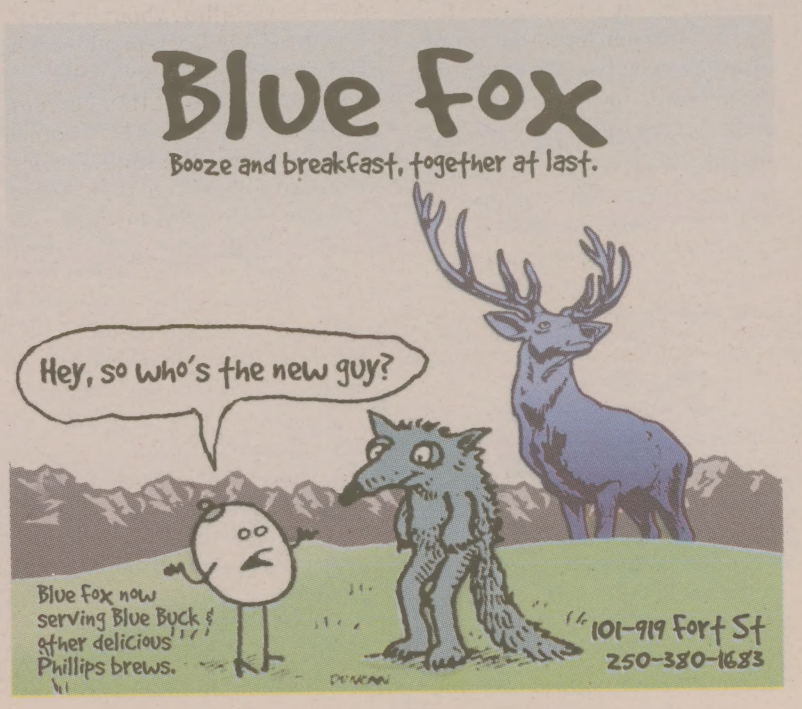
I've learned that one friend started eating plain coffee beans at age two or three, while another can't go to the gym without brushing her teeth. I now know to keep one of my friends away from jeans and hoodies if they're on sale, and to keep another friend away from red wine because she's allergic. One friend met her husband on Hot or Not.com after doing a research paper on the website for an English class, while another friend thinks that Chad Kroeger is the anti-Christ.

And to think Facebook has been criticized for making friendships more impersonal.

Maybe all people needed was this little bit of distance in order to open up. I personally don't care if friends prefer chocolate or vanilla, or that their favourite colour is orange; it's their fears and dreams, their most embarrassing moments, biggest regrets and childhood memories that really define them. These are also the things that don't usually come up in general conversation.

That said, I am officially tagging every single one of you to sign on Facebook right now and make your own list of 25 random things.


HOLMES
REALTY
Greg Rowland
Managing Broker
2481 Beacon Ave. Sidney BC V8L 1X9 ph: 250 656-0911 • cell: 250 882-6680
fax: 250 656-2435 e: greg@gregrowland.ca • www.gregrowland.ca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## LETTERS

### UVSS practices bigotry

Democracy sure gets in the way when it runs contrary to your agenda.

Even though the UVSS Clubs Council voted to reinstate funding to Youth Protecting Youth in a resounding 18-5 decision, the UVSS Board of Directors decided to flex their muscles, overthrow the vote, and suspend funding for YPY.

Numerous other groups including chess and classical music appreciation were approved, but YPY was singled out for punishment on the basis of their religious and political beliefs. What is it called when you deny a benefit to a particular group of people on the basis of their religious and political beliefs?

It's called discrimination.

It is brutally ironic that our very own Student Society, who's constitution and policies are peppered with the language of anti-discrimination, diversity, and minority rights, would blatantly discriminate and censor a religious minority. Unadulterated hypocrisy.

I would ask the UVSS, how have human rights movements confronted the oppression of aboriginals, and pay inequity for women? Through freedom of expression.

How did history reign in the tyranny of unaccountable political power? Democratic government. Alarmingly, we don't have either on this campus.

Normally, analogies to dictatorships of the past that trample the rights of its citizens are overblown. Not this time.

*Mark Witten*
*UVic student*

### Team BANG out of touch

It must be nice for Kyle Hohman and Team BANG to be so completely out of touch with the experience of most UVic students, it certainly doesn't qualify them to represent us on the Students' Society Board of Directors.

To say that tuition fees are "beyond the scope of student politics" is truly offensive when student debt is at a record high. Despite the lack of progress to reduce tuition costs it is a battle that is worth fighting for.

My student debt is $30,000 and counting. You better believe I want a students' society that will campaign to address this. Who else is better suited to advocate for these issues other than students?

Thankfully Kyle and Team BANG have narrowed down the choices for me, their platform tells me that profit ought to trump all other issues.

I won't be voting for them, and I expect all the other UVic students with student loans won't either.

*Chris Anctil*
*UVic student*

# Visiting an alien west coast world

**Phil Thompson**

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

An alien campus, an alien city, an alien island. To this Ontario expatriate, the UVic campus presents itself, at first glance, as an otherworldly entity; an alternate reality place replete with mountains, hordes of bunnies and Douglas firs. The west coast vibe somehow permeates students and faculty alike.

Perched on a bench in front of the aptly named BiblioCafe outside the McPherson library, a small waterfall gushes nearby; its soothing cadences reassure my troubled spirit. There is a sense of limitless possibilities.

Multitudes of students (most in small groups, some alone) talk, study, laugh, text. As I take in this depiction of Canadian academia, my mind treads over familiar territory. Partially submerged memories of my own university experience resurface.

I find myself lulled into a dream-like state. How simultaneously different, yet strikingly similar, is this scene of UVic in 2008 to my earlier years at the University of Toronto in the late 80's? What vast reservoir of human potential, achievement and promise lay submerged within the throng of students mingling around the shallow, rippling pool?

What are the emotions, aspirations, dreams, goals and objectives of these students? What are the academic thoughts preoccupying those here and on campuses everywhere? University can often be a stress-laden roller coaster ride with a poorly-defined destination.

Somewhere between those extremes of success and disaster was me at U of T. With its many older, architecturally-grand and imposing buildings, its history, tradition and the sheer number of grads, U of T presents a profoundly different feel and atmosphere than UVic — yet motivations remain the same.

At university, while pursuing a diverse array of subjects, I knew I wanted to become a writer. I regret not having formulated a fully-viable plan B. Even my plan A lacked sufficient focus and direction. Just staring at the spectrum of students, I know many of the up's and down's these UVic'ers are experiencing.

At last readying myself for an exploratory walk through the pathways, walkways, byways, academic buildings, lecture halls, grassy expanses and wooded areas, my gaze is drawn inexorably back to that familiar, archetypal timeless scene of students milling about on campus. What kind of Canada, what kind of world, will they create?

Will some among this current crop of UVic scholars be responsible for earth-shaking, stellar achievements? Can they bring an end to poverty, hunger and war? How about a UVic student cracking the secret of warp drive, enabling us to send humans to Alpha Centauri and beyond? Maybe one will discover a way to reverse global warming.

And, reality-check time — was I, a daydreaming writer, really contributing to anything in particular?

During my jaunts through the campus, I catch glimpses of mountains in the distance. Occasionally, I lose my sense of direction as I weave my way in a random, unmapped fashion, the brilliant afternoon sun falling slowly westward in the sky, seeming brighter and more intense than it ever did in Toronto. (Due to lack of pollution haze perhaps?) Unfamiliar species of birds flit about leafy canopies. Squirrels make tentative appearances nearby — the only instance where I am not impressed by the nature here. (Toronto has an over-abundance of these pesky critters.)

Professors I talk to look the same as professors always have. Some are traditional, stuffy and old-school. Others are seemingly Green Party supporters, sort of ex-hippie flower children who could probably rock out to Janis Joplin.

As night falls on the UVic campus, a light wind arises and something foreign alights on my unaccustomed taste buds — sea salt churned up from the depths of the vast Pacific Ocean. There's an unfamiliar dampness in the air. I listen to the plaintive wailing of gulls from somewhere overhead.

On a university campus, insulated and buffered from the outside world, one can almost be in a state of denial that the world out there even exists. Yet it does. Economic collapse, war, dire conditions in the Third World; evils and challenges remain, awaiting resolution — our resolution.

There have been countless students here before, there will be untold numbers to come. An afternoon at UVic gives a brief snapshot of the people, the culture, the promise at this university. I cannot recall the exact moment it hit me, but this lovely place has cast its spell on me.

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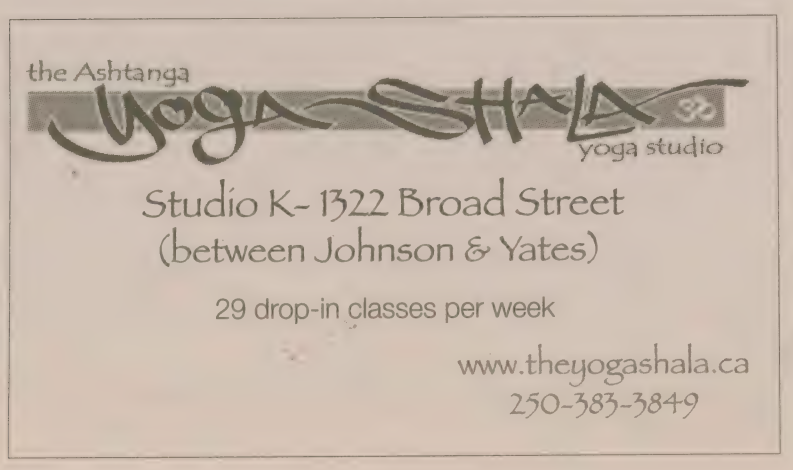

# Celebrating women

## A look at one day dedicated to the feminine soul

Story by Gemma Karstens-Smith
Illustrations by Marc Junker

People across the globe will join together on March 8 to celebrate grandmothers and mothers, sisters and daughters, aunts and friends as part of International Women's Day (IWD). In Victoria, people will gather over the next couple of weeks during the first annual LoudSpeaker festival — a celebration series geared to rejoice women through art.

### Time to get loud

"LoudSpeaker is a festival of music, theatre and poetry in celebration of International Women's Day," explained Andrea Routley, who organized this year's festival with Emma Cochrane. The festival, with runs from Feb. 28 to March 14, will include everything from open mic nights to a showcase of women in comedy, to monologues and naked readings. Topics and performances will range from touching to tearful, but the focus of each performance will be women.

"We wanted to have a festival where we didn't really censor what people are going to say, what they're going to perform. We don't tell them how to represent women or feminism. They just take their experiences, who they are and what they are and put it on stage," said Routley.

Cochrane believes sharing these experiences can promote change.

"If someone in the audience connects with one of those stories then there's a change," Cochrane said. "When someone who has also felt marginalized or ostracized is able to connect with someone on stage telling a story that resonates, then there's a transfer of emotion or support."

Routley and Cochrane started talking about organizing an event after seeing AIDS Vancouver Island's "Viral Monologues" in November. They started asking around, and found the response to their ideas "surprisingly positive and encouraging," with artists and venues more than willing to help out.

Proceeds from LoudSpeaker series will support Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS) which provides support and other resources for sex workers.

"They support a group of women (and men) who are maybe the most vulnerable in our society," said Routley. "There's a lot of unnecessary hostility toward sex workers in our society."

Routley and Cochrane were drawn to PEERS not just because of what they do, but also how they do it in a way that doesn't preach or impose.

"[PEERS] has exit strategies if people want exit strategies, but if not, they ask how we can makes this line of work comfortable and safe," notes Cochrane.

### Words against violence

One series of LoudSpeaker performances will not only benefit PEERS, but also V-Day, an ongoing global campaign to raise funds and awareness of violence against women.

On March 8, 12 and 14, UVic will host performance readings from *a Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer,* a collection of work edited by Eve Ensler, author of The Vagina Monologues. Ninety per cent of the proceeds raised from the performances will also go toward PEERS, while the other 10 per cent will go to this year's V-Day spotlight, projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that support an end to violence against women.

The performances will include 10 readings, most of which are monologues, split in to the categories of memory, monologue, rant and prayer.

"We're not trying to appropriate these stories in any way. It's clear these aren't our stories. But we want to share in other people's stories with an audience," said Lise Gaston, a fourth-year English student who will be reading at the event.

### A day of days

German socialist Clara Zetkin tabled the idea of having an international women's day at a conference in Copenhagen in 1910. Her vision was to have one day every year to celebrate women and focus on their demands, including better working conditions, universal sufferage and an end to discrimination on the job. IWD was marked for the first time on March 19, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. In 1913, IWD moved to March 8, and has been celebrated on this day ever since.

Although women in many western countries have achieved leaps and bounds in terms of gaining rights in the decades since the first IWD, women all over the world still face barriers today.

"I don't think we're there yet," said Annalee Lepp, chair of the Department of Women's Studies at UVic. "We can find instances of issues that women still face, and if you're a racialized woman, this is compounded by issues of racism."

These barriers can still be seen in Canada, where it's often assumed that women have gained equality. One Statistics Canada report from 2007 showed that women aged 25 to 29 earned 20 per cent less than men in 1991. That gap had narrowed to 18 per cent by 2001, though Statistics Canada noted the only reason for the decline was that more women were obtaining university degrees. Information from the 2006 census showed that the median earnings for a full-year, full-time earner in Canada were $41,401 in 2005. However, while the median for men was $46,778, the median for women was only $35,830.

"The labour market is still structured in ways that women do much more part-time casual labour because of family responsibilities, et cetera, et cetera," says Lepp.

### Women's world

1975 was designated International Women's Year by the United Nations (UN). During the year, the UN gave IWD official recognition. Each year since, the UN has chosen a theme for IWD, though individual organizations and governments often modify the UN theme or choose a different theme entirely. The UN's theme for IWD 2009 is "women and men united to end violence against women and girls."

Cochrane notes that this theme isn't exactly timely.

"It could have been a theme for the last 10 years," she said. "But it is something that needs attention globally and locally."

Local violence against women is something that has been overlooked by many Canadians who often see it as an overseas issue. But the lack of awareness doesn't mean that it's not serious. Statistics Canada's 1993 Violence Against Women survey found that one-half of all Canadian women had experienced at least one incident of violence since the age of 16. The survey also found that four in 10 Canadian women have been the victim of sexual assault. Sexual assault is also one of the most under-reported crimes; Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) estimates that fewer than 10 per cent of sexual assaults are reported to police.

Statistics Canada's 2006 report "Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends" showed that rates of spousal violence and spousal homicide are even higher for Aboriginal women than for non-Aboriginal women or for Aboriginal men.

"[Violence against women and girls] isn't something that'll be fixed this year and then next year we'll just go on and pick another theme," said Routley.

Lepp says that including men in the theme is important.

"Men are part of this struggle [against gender-based violence] and need to be part of this struggle," she said. "I think it really registers the fact that men have a very important role to play in these global struggles around equity [and] diversity."

## What's in a theme

Canada chose not to go with the UN's theme this year.

Instead, Status of Women Canada has designated "Strong Leadership + Strong Women + Strong World = Equality" as the country's theme for IWD 2009.

According to the Status of Women Canada website, the theme "reflects the government's firm belief that increasing women's participation and access to leadership roles and opportunities will help women and girls thrive, reach their full potential and fulfill their dreams, and help build a more prosperous Canada."

But Lepp says that women are not grabbing the opportunity to get into political leadership. She notes that there are several possible reasons for this, including political parties running women in places where they are unlikely to win seats and the fact that Canadian politics continues to be "a boys club."

"The culture of political life hasn't shifted in significant ways that would suggest a conducive space for women," said Lepp.

And even if there were more women in Canadian politics, Lepp isn't convinced it would change the status quo.

"I think in many respects there's a liberal model here, [with the thought that] if you position women in leadership roles, change will happen," she said. "My argument is that it doesn't necessarily mean that. You can have women in very powerful positions, but that doesn't necessarily lead to change in terms of equity or economic injustice. To play the numbers game can be dangerous."

For Cochrane, who is also the Women's Collective Co-ordinator at CFUV, change comes from below, not above.

"You start from the ground up and encourage women to get involved and hopefully it translates into wider change," she said.

In Cochrane's position of Women's Collective Coordinator, this means trying to increase the number of women programmers and volunteers at CFUV so more women will be employed in media related jobs and eventually there will be a more accurate representation of women. Women currently make up about 36 per cent of on-air programmers at CFUV, up from 10 per cent in the 1990s.

"More often than not, the media attempts this kind of neutrality, but by attempting neutrality, you default to the dominant and the other angles are excluded. It's not neutral," says Cochrane. "In any kind of public affairs issue, [you have to think] about it from the different perspectives and [think] about how gender, race, class, ability, sexuality... are all at play in a specific issue."

## Gender busters

The image of a strong woman is still one that conjures fears — even in Canada, even on a campus like UVic, with a population of 75 per cent women.

"I think there's a lot of ignorance about what feminism is," said Routley. "The image is still of a bra-burning angry woman."

Gaston also believes that the fears surrounding feminism stem from misunderstanding.

"There's a difference between man hating and wanting women to be equal," she said. "I think [feminism] is about women being able to do whatever they want. If you want to wear a short skirt, you can. If you don't, who cares?"

Cochrane notes that women aren't the only ones who have something to gain when it comes to putting current gender roles and relations in the past.

"An end to patriarchy is good for men too," said Cochrane. "The social construction of masculinity is very limited and very rigid. There's not a lot of flexibility in these binary gender roles we've created. And feminism is trying to break those [roles] down."

Lepp notes that Women's Studies is also about more than just studying women.

"What we're promoting here is a movement of social justice that includes everyone," she said. "The lense — to some extent, is gender. But it crosses all levels of difference."

### LOUDSPEAKER EVENTS

She's So Loud: A Showcase of Women in Comedy
Thursday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. at the Victoria Event Centre
Cost: $12

Kate Reid: In Concert and Up Close
Friday, March 6, 8 p.m. at Spiral Cafe
Cost: $10

Reading of "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer"
March 8, 12 and 14, 7:30 p.m. at UVic's David Lam Auditorium
Cost: $5 - $10

For more information visit www.myspace.com/loudspeakerfestival.

# Workshop challenges mainstream fashion

**Casey Moulton**

An eclectic group of girls and women and a handful of men gathered in the Student Union Building (SUB) for the workshop "Unlabeled Fashion 2009: cut up stereotypes" on Feb. 28.

The Unlabeled Fashion workshop has been an annual event for the past four years. The event, hosted by antidote (a self-described multiracial girls' and women's network in Victoria) celebrates and scrutinizes fashion in modern culture.

"We are concerned with deconstructing mainstream fashion and reconstructing it as a means of expression and empowerment," said Letitia Annamalai, one of the organizers of Unlabeled Fashion 2009. "We are taking back fashion, and making it our own to fit our bodies, and to make us more conscious and aware about where it's from and how it's made."

Annamalai has several concerns regarding mainstream fashion, including the use of unrealistic images of beauty and who is represented in fashion campaigns.

"We are also concerned with masculinity, femininity, heteronormativity, glamorized violence, hyper-sexualization and infantilization," she said.

Throughout the day, participants had the opportunity to partake in several events, such as discussing the negative impact of the fashion industry and media on female body image, as well as participants having the chance to create some of their very own garments at the conference, then strut down the runway in their creations.

"We wanted to make the event interactive and appealing to youth especially, and have made it a day's long conference with various workshops concerning issues related to fashion, body image/health, media representation/misrepresentation, cultural appropriation and the manufacturing industry in the global South," said Annamalai.

The conference began with small group workshops. One workshop, facilitated by the Go Girls (an antidote-like group from Vancouver) discussed negative body image created by the fashion industry, and focused on the negative and wrong information the media gives women about their menstrual cycles.

In our culture, menstruation is so completely taboo that it's become almost shameful. Advertisements for feminine hygiene products even use a blue liquid in place of what we all know is really red blood. The leaders of the workshop said that pads and tampons have a lot of chemicals in them that are not good for you. They also said that the bleach used in these products can actually causes women's bodies to bleed more than they naturally would so that they will need to change them more frequently and it won't be long until they're back in the drug store buying more.

Luckily, the Go Girls had a solution. They taught the group how to make their own sustainable, economical and chemical-free pads.

The rest of the conference combined a construction and deconstruction of fashion. The deconstruction included discussing the ways in which the fashion industry and media facilitate the stereotyping and the racialism of women, and how this can lead to poor body image and a lack of self-esteem.

The construction aspect included learning how to silk-screen. Participants had the option of using pre-made prints that said "Feminism is for everyone" and "Feminism loves you," or to create their own original design.

"My hope is that people leave this event inspired by creative initiatives in the fashion workshops, but most importantly have an awareness of our concerns and issues we bring to the table," said Annamalai.

For more information on antidote or to get involved, check out their website at antidotenetwork.org.

*- with files from Gemma Karstens-Smith*

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

**Melanie Matining models an Unlabeled Fashion creation on Feb. 28.**

# Zine aims to create a dialogue in the queer community

**April Oldford**

Two UVic students have started a zine to create a sense of community within Victoria's queer society.

"My Identity in Community" is the theme of the self-published zine by Susie-Jane Miller and Cora Babey, both third-year social work students. The zine started as an anti-oppressive research project.

"We're trying to get away from 'men-in-white-lab-coats' persona of research," said Babey. "We're making sure it is done in a way where practice and theory are the same thing. Nothing is truly scientific because it is always through someone's lens."

Miller and Babey believe that there isn't very much dialogue between queer groups. They believe the limitations in communication between generations alone are enough to fuel this style of research in an attempt to create a sense of community.

The zine will be a collection of photographs, artwork, love-letters, testimonials, interviews, poetry, journal entries and whatever else has been submitted that relates to their theme. But the publication will be shaped by the contributions, not by the fact that it is a queer research project.

Miller and Babey say the work will be very personal and will add to the sense of "home" with the use of fabric and selected personal touches by the two.

"We're including folks in the entire process," said Miller. "We will represent people as they represent themselves."

Babey adds that it's important for herself and Miller to be involved in the process.

"We will be making our own submissions to the zine," she said.

Their project isn't just for the grade, however. The pair are hoping to accomplish a response by not only challenging standardized research styles, but also how information is distributed. The idea is that this non-corporate work will create a chain reaction of communication, first between friends, then strangers, then between peers after reading the experiences and opinions of those in their neighbourhood.

But the zine will pride itself on creating a non-tangible result. Miller and Babey are hoping that after it is published it won't fall between the cracks of undeveloped research, but continue to flourish and create a sense of home.

The two have partnered with UVic Pride, who will be funding the creation and distribution of this project. The number of zines being published is undecided.

Submissions for "My Identity in Community" are being accepted until March 14. To submit, email vic-queerzine@gmail.com or drop off entries at the UVic Pride office in the Student Union Building, B118.

> "Nothing is truely scientific because it is always through someone's lens."
>
> – Cora Babey, Co-creator of "My Identity in Community"

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*Continued from p. 1*

# Women revel in realistic body images

"It's nothing we don't witness every day getting dressed, but when the only bodies you see naked are your own and the ones in magazines or on TV, you compare yourself to them," Dunning said. "You don't often get the chance to see real bodies — the woman sitting next to you on the bus, or the one who serves you coffee. This makes you feel more real, even more idolized, without trying to live up to the airbrushed image."

Yet Dunning said the true intimacy of the evening came from the poetry.

"The poems the performers are reading are already so raw, but now neither the poem [nor the] poet has anything left to hide behind. That doubles the vulnerability, so the work is even more powerful," she said.

Missie Peters, one of the night's performers who helped stage-manage the event, said that while this is the third time she's performed "in the raw," she (and many of the other six performers) were doing things on stage they never had before — like talking openly and honestly, improvising and singing.

"When you perform nude several things happen," said Peters. "First, there is no barrier between you and the audience; everything you say is a direct hit. You are bare, raw. It makes for an incredibly powerful performance. Second, the themes explored in the show, of body image, of what it means to be a women, of life experiences, are all amplified for the audience by experiencing women reveling in their bodies, not hiding them. [Finally], while every single performer had a different shape and held her body differently, it was easy to see that each was beautiful."

All the performers were amazed by how quickly they were comfortable being naked around each other, said Peters, who emphasized that she was honoured to work with such a talented group of women. Despite the nudity, Peters said what scared her most was the refrain, "Hymn to Our Bodies," that the group sang at the end.

> "When you perform nude ... there's no barrier between you and the audience; evreything you say is a direct hit."
>
> – Missie Peters, Victoria poet

"I'm a poet; I don't sing. So I was fine with being naked for the whole show, but singing in front of people — that was a real challenge," Peters said.

Westendorp said that while the entire show was "a whirlwind of unbelievable," the most powerful moment for her actually came when the group sang. The refrain repeated: "Get it out of your head babe, you're more than just your body. But your body has brought you so far, so far. But your body has brought you so far." Westendorp believes this became the theme of the evening.

"Our bodies get us where we need to go and we need to love and respect them," she said. "So often all we have for our bodies is judgment, critique and hatred."

Peters' hope is that the audience left the performance with a greater sense of self and community.

"I hope the women in the audience [realized] that the issues they struggle with in their own heads are the same ones every other woman goes through, and none of us have the answers," said Peters. "Certainly, when we were exploring the issues as part of our practicing, we kept coming back to the fact that being a woman is a journey, a process, with no end point. So I hope our show was a bright point in people's own personal journeys."

Westendorp emphasized that while the show proved that parts of every woman's experiences overlap, it's important to note that each one is on her own special path.

"[As performers] we're not special; we're women just like the women in the audience," she said. "We've just given ourselves permission to share our voices and our words — and that strength is within every woman."

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Heidi Machnee (left) and Kristy Westendorp performed nude with other poets March 1, asking women to realize that every body is beautiful.**

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# Students take the plunge to raise cancer funds

**Jenny Boychuk**

UVic students plunged into the icy waters of Cadboro Bay on March 1 to raise money for cancer research.

"It's something that is close to everyone's hearts, and everyone can relate to it in some way. It was a great success," said Erika Maddox, one of the event's organizers.

The event kicked off with music, and speeches from Andrew Hall and Michela Byl on how cancer has affected their lives and their reasons for organizing the event. Byl explained that she had a friend who had just been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

"It would be great to see everyone come together as one," Byl said.

The duo also shared the news that the group has raised over $2,000 for cancer research, far surpassing their original goal of $500.

Once the chilly dip began, participants stayed in the frigid waters for 74 seconds — one second for every thousand people that died of cancer in Canada last year.

The original five members — Maddox, Hall, Byl, Amanda Gillander and Blake Adam — didn't have to endure the cold waters on their own; at least 20 friends and family members took the plunge with them. Another group of friends and family supported the swimmers from the shore.

"We weren't expecting so many people to show up," said Gillander, a first-year student at UVic. "We figured each of us would be able to get a friend or two to come out. The number of supporters definitely exceeded our expectations."

When the swimmers emerged from the water, pink and shivering, friends waited ashore with blankets, towels and hugs. People warmed up while sipping on coffee and tea donated by Starbucks.

"It was fun to do — it wasn't a chore, and I would do it again," Gillander said. "It was worthwhile to know that we were coming together and making a difference."

Byl was also pleased with the experience.

"Definitely got a little adrenaline rush from it!" Byl said.

What began as a "half-hearted" project for a health and well-being class, became something much more than a way to get marks. The criteria for the assignment was to create a legacy that the members of the group would want to leave behind to enhance human wellness and potential.

"At first we wanted to just participate in a few walks for causes, such as the walk for people with Alzheimer's disease," Maddox said. "Then we found out a member of our group had recently lost a family member to cancer, and we decided that it really does affect everyone, and switched our topic."

It took the group about three weeks to organize the event. The first two weeks consisted of brainstorming ideas and outlining what they wanted to accomplish. By the third week, there was a group on Facebook with 60 members. Then the pledges started coming in.

"It is extremely easy to set up an event," Byl said. "The Canadian Cancer Society was a huge help to us, they assisted us in setting up a website and provided information, banners and brochures. All we had to do was ask for help, which is the best thing you can do when planning an event."

KATIE O'CONNOR PHOTO

**Students dove into the freezing waters of Cadboro Bay on March 1 to raise money for cancer research.**

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# Espresso is 'crema' the crop

**Graham Briggs**

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Ken Gordon takes pride in the espresso served at Street Level Espresso.**

For many of us, enjoying espresso is a regular ritual. Fortunately for coffee connoisseurs with a discerning palate, a growing number of espresso bars are intent on delivering a delicious dose.

A shot of espresso should have good body that is complex and balanced. The coffee beans' sweetness, bitterness, acidity and slight sourness must be harmonized. There should be flavours of dark chocolate, nuts and/or stone fruit, depending on the blend.

"Everything just melds together, so when you take a sip of [a good shot of espresso], it just rolls on your tongue," said Brooke Blyth, manager of Caffé Artigiano.

Great espresso starts with a careful blend of several different kinds of high-quality coffee beans.

"Typically, an espresso blend will have Indonesian coffees for body, Ethiopian coffees for acidity and Central [American] coffees for sweetness," said Ken Gordon, owner and operator of Street Level Espresso.

"You taste different things on different parts of your tongue," he said. "You've got sweetness on the tip, bitter on the back, and acidity on the sides. You want to get all of those things in harmony to have body. Body is when you feel it all over your mouth at the same time, and it adds up to good."

The coffee beans are ground into the portafilter, and then pressed by hand to form a puck. The portafilter is inserted into the espresso machine's grouphead, then steam, under several atmospheres of pressure, passes through the puck in the portafilter and emerge in the form of espresso.

A good shot of espresso must have good crema, the layer of foam on the surface of the shot.

"You're looking for persistent crema, for a reddish speckle that denotes caramelized sugars," Gordon said. "When you part it with a spoon it should close itself over, which is called 'healing' — you should have self-healing crema."

Gordon says crema is all about oil and water becoming a single liquid.

"Now, normally science will tell you oil and water don't mix. But, with the magic of the espresso machine [it does]," said Gordon, who works with an Italian manufactured Nuova Simonelli.

Gordon's espresso machine has nine atmospheres of pressure. When those nine atmospheres of pressure are pushing through the coffee puck, Gordon says, the oils in the coffee become tiny little bubbles. When it's formed together, it's referred to as "micro-bubble lattice," because the micro bubbles fit together so perfectly they appear to be one liquid.

Climate has a big impact on the quality of the crema.

"Humidity makes for the best crema, which is why the major Meccas of coffee in North America are Victoria, Vancouver, Portland and Seattle," said Gordon. "In mid-September when the rain starts pouring, I'm looking at the crema coming out of the machine going, 'Oh my God. That's beautiful!'"

Of course, getting a complex, balanced body and beautiful crema takes a good barista. And what makes a good barista?

"A lot of time, a lot of training," said Blyth. And what she calls a "good palate."

Gordon agrees.

"Espresso is like a magnifying glass for looking at coffee," said Gordon. "I'll make a small French press of my espresso blend at the beginning of the day and taste what kind of overall flavours I should be able to find in it in a more subtle way. And then when I pull a straight shot of espresso, I'm trying to get all those flavours that I was able to taste, but they're a hell of a lot more intense in a shot of espresso."

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PROVIDED IMAGE

**Swedish flick *Let the Right One In* doesn't follow vampire movie clichés.**

# Vampire movie bleeds romance

**Sebastian Eklund**

If you are looking for a fast-paced Hollywood vampire thriller without an ounce of charm, *Let the Right One In* (*Låt den rätte komma in*) isn't for you.

But the film is everything the dreadfully emo *Twilight* lacked as a vampire love story. Tomas Alfredson's understated romance between a young middle school boy named Oskar and his next door neighbour, Eli, is chock full of emotion without the ugly special effects and awful dialogue.

The story, penned by John Ajvide Lindqvist, is set in 1981 and tells of the bullied Oskar, who lives in the bleak and sparsely populated Blackeberg, a suburb of Stockholm, Sweden. Once he discovers his new neighbour is different from other children, he befriends her as an outcast. But Eli is a vampire. Vampires must kill to survive, and she soon teaches him to fight the bullies. Her compassionate insight into his rough life allows Oskar to overcome his initial fear, and he slowly develops feelings for her.

The film's beauty is in the relationship between Oskar and Eli. She is his glimmer of light, which is portrayed when they share moments alone by the playground at dark. Oskar is the only connection Eli keeps in her lonely and bloody existence, and they have a love that is beautifully childish and tragic.

By day, *Let the Right One In* is a story of facing your enemies and fighting back. However, it is a love story set in the dark of night. Their love is marred by bloody violence and an intrigue that creates chaos when inhabitants drop dead from the hunger of a vampire.

> "*Let the Right One In* really is a stroke of genius in its creation of a dynamic love story between a boy and a vampire."

But *Let the Right One In* transcends the generic vampire film. Together with the cold images and the dreamy score, the two young actors deliver one hell of a drama. The film is stark, which might be hard to digest for those who prefer "drop-dead gorgeous" *Twilight* vampires and unbridled special effects, but it shows the bleakness of vampires and the conflicts of suburban living better than any recent vampire film.

*Let the Right One In* really is a stroke of genius in its creation of a dynamic love story between a boy plagued by bullies, and the loneliest of beings — vampires. Does it get more endearing than this?

## TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2009

1. SHEARING PINX *
   Ultra Snake (Endless Latino)
2. ELEPHANT ISLAND †
   Don't Say You Don't Know What You Want (Aaargh!)
3. JON-RAE FLETCHER †
   Oh Maria (Weewerk)
4. DAN AUERBACH
   Keep It Hid (Nonesuch)
5. VARIOUS
   Dark Was The Night (4AD)
6. JERK WARD †
   Too Young To Thrash (Supreme Echo)
7. ODD NOSDAM
   T.I.M.E. Soundtrack (Anticon)
8. P.P.P.
   Abundance (Ubiquity)
9. M. WARD
   Hold Time (Merge)
10. BRUCE PENINSULA *
    A Mountain Is A Mouth (Bruce Trail)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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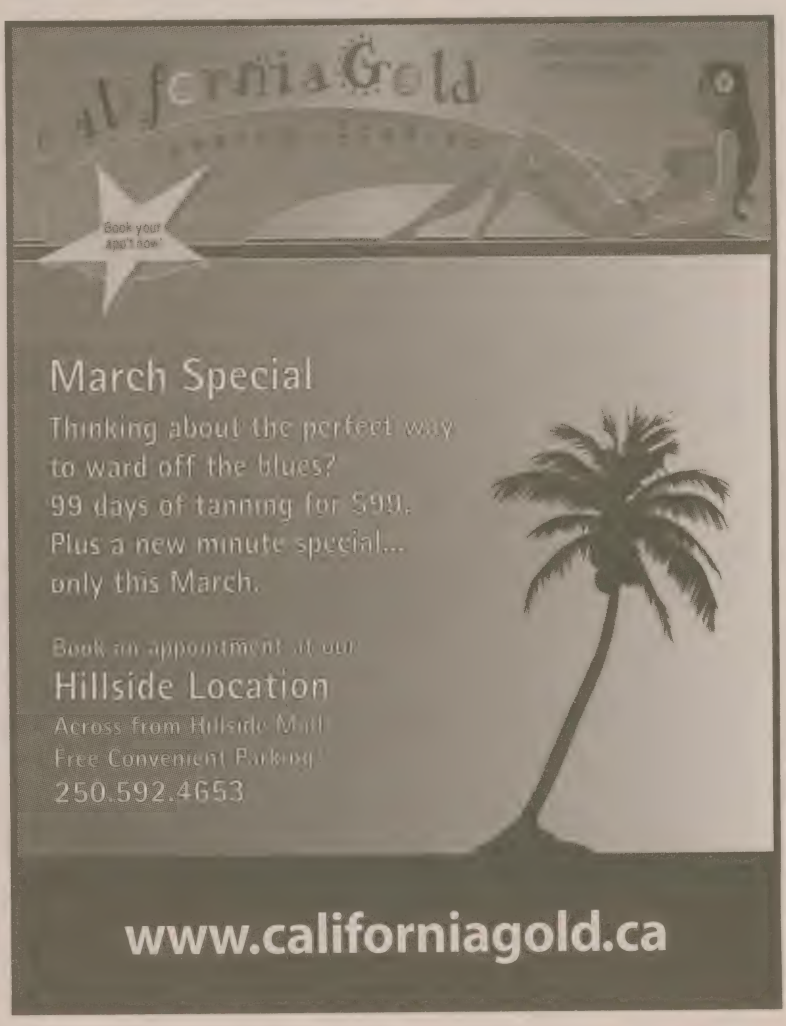

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ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

**UVic's John Moonlight (centre) managed to break through his Velox tacklers during Saturday's match to score a late try. Velox's defence was too strong for the Vikes, however, as the Valhallians took the match 32-23.**

# Velox Valhallians upset Vikes in Gordon Head weekend derby

## Velox defeats UVic to remain undefeated in the CDI Premier League

**Andrew Smith**

It's been an interesting first half of the season in the Canadian Direct Insurance (CDI) Premier League in B.C.

UVic's arch rival, James Bay, has fallen to sixth place in this year's standings after posting an 8-0 record during the Vancouver Island Rugby Union Elite League fall season.

The Vikes have slipped to fifth place after recently winning the Barnard Cup. And, shocking local rugby fans recently, the Velox Valhallians are now in second place as they trail Premier leader Capilano by just one point.

It's been an odd opening, to say the least, as the Valhallians have completely revamped their squad and remain undefeated in 2009's CDI Premier League. After posting just two wins in eight games last fall, the squad is fitter, crisper and more determined than ever to contest 2009's Rounsfell Cup.

Both sides came in undefeated to Saturday's match at Wallace Field, but based on the 46-15 lashing UVic gave Velox in October, the Vikes should have been the favourites.

Despite their lineup missing several players to national duty and head injuries, the Vikes have played disadvantaged before and managed to hold their own.

With their heavy forward pack under the strong leadership of captain Andrew Tiedemann, and their backline in the hands of standoff Nathan Hirayama, the Vikes never found their rhythm in their 32-23 defeat to the Valhallians this past weekend.

> "They're the real thing. I told the guys that before the game but I guess they didn't believe me."
>
> – Rick Farrally, UVic Men's Rugby Coach

Rick Farrally, filling in for UVic's coach Doug Tate, said that Velox was simply too strong for his side on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28.

"We got outplayed," Farrally said. "They were swarming into us. When the ball went loose, they pounced on it."

The Vikes were first to score, however, as Kyle Buckley sprinted down the touch line before laying off to no. 8 Struan Robertson. Velox smelled blood and quickly responded with a converted penalty and try.

The Vikes were quicker in the opening minutes and, after switching the field to two forwards waiting on the wing, loose head prop Tiedemann fed tight head Tobey Peyton as the hefty prop went over untouched to take the lead 10-8.

Velox's Dan White would be next to score before UVic's Hirayama would convert an easy three points to trail 13-15.

Velox came alive in the closing minutes of the half, however, as they hammered the Vikes and dominated at the break down.

The Valhallians would punch in one more try to lead 20-13 at the half.

Determined to keep their Gordon Head rivals from running away with the victory, UVic clawed back to pound Velox's defensive line. Mike MacKay would leap past his tacklers to touch down and narrow Velox's lead to 20-18.

But that's as close as UVic came, as Velox played with an intensity that the Vikes just couldn't seem to answer.

After several dropped balls and missed passes, Velox would touch down twice more to take the lead 32-18.

With the clock winding down, UVic's John Moonlight would touch down once more but Velox would take the well-deserved 32-23 win.

Farrally admitted that the Vikes' squad may have underestimated Velox's determination heading into the match.

"They're the real thing," Farrally said after the match. "I told the guys that before the game but I guess they didn't believe me."

Despite now falling to fifth place in the CDI Premier League standings, the Vikes still have a game in hand and will be determined to climb the standings when they face off against the third-place Meralomas on Saturday, March 7 at Wallace Field.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

**Vikes' William Gye (yellow) was unable to hold off the Whitecaps during Saturday's matchup.**

# Vancouver Whitecaps send Vikes back to school

**Jonathon Wolsey**

Conditions at Centennial Stadium were less than enjoyable on Saturday, Feb. 28, as the UVic Vikes were unable to fight back against 3-0 deficit that saw them go down against a younger-looking Vancouver Whitecaps.

In the past three years, the score line was much closer as 2007 saw UVic win 1-0 and last year's game was a tied 0-0 affair.

The United Soccer League champions came out looking to get on the scoreboard first. They seemed to play a very systematical game, which saw some solid passing that allowed them to retain ball possession.

With a quick start, the Whitecaps had the Vikes trailing by one. Vancouver's Vincente Arze was able to pick up Lyle Martin for a through pass in which he tapped the ball into the back of the net.

Winger Takashi Hirano for the Whitecaps added to the goal with a thunderous strike from a corner kick in the 10th minute, which tricked the keeper and curved into the back of the net.

Lyle Martin finished up the early scoring as in the 16th minute, as he found the ball in a scramble in front of the net and chipped the keeper to put the visitors up 3-0.

For the rest of the game it seemed as if the Vikes had no answer to the Whitecaps defence as they could not build any momentum for more attacks.

In the second half, the Vikes picked up the tempo and posted 10 shots compared to their lonely one shot in the first half. Their efforts were not enough, however, as the soccer gods left them unrewarded after several attempts at the net.

UVic's William Gye tried to get the attack going with a few misses and a breakaway chance by the end of the game, but the Whitecaps keeper was able to keep him and his teammates at bay to post a convincing shutout.

The Vikes showed their frustration with the lack of goals, with Sam Wingham and Kyle Kostis receiving yellow cards in the second half.

Keeper Dan Kilpatrick was busy saving 28 shots during the game and having to deal with a surging attack by the Whitecaps. The defence also had their hands full, foiling the attempts of the Whitecaps with good positioning.

"It was a battle," said UVic defenceman Wes Barnett. "As a defender you are defending all the time against the 'Caps."

The Vikes will now train for the annual Keg Spring Cup, which will be hosted at Centennial Stadium from March 28-29.

ROWING WATCH

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

**Vikes' Rowers Bo Love (left), Holly Goldsmith-Jones, Jen Rose, Rebecca Campbell and Jo Merson race for the finish line. It was a strong showing by the UVic rowers as they hosted 15 teams and over 500 rowers at Elk Lake.**

# Vikes row to victory in home regatta

**Philippe Granger**

From the countless grueling practices that have rowers out on the water before the sunrise, to the hours of mundane dry-land training, it all came together for the Vikes crews last weekend as they showed the visiting teams who owns Elk Lake.

UVic hosted their 35th Elk Lake Spring Regatta, which saw the Vikes defend their home turf by finishing first in the 2,000-metre race, in both the men's and women's open eight-plus finals, among others.

The open women's eight-plus (a boat of eight rowers with one oar each and a coxswain at the stern who screams clichés of encouragement) raced Sunday morning, March 1, and beat out the provincial rowing team from Quebec by an easy 11 seconds with a final time of 6:33. Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28, however, the junior varsity women's eight-plus could not catch their Quebec team counterpart throughout the race but still claimed silver with a time of 6:54.

The open men's eight-plus pulled a grueling 5:33 to take the top spot.

"It's been going really well for us. Everybody's been racing really well," said men's coach Paul Hawksworth after the men's eight-plus dominant performance. "I think that we're at a point where we're putting down real consistent and fast strokes, but we still have a little bit to go before we're really at our Brown Cup peak form."

15 clubs and over 500 participants came to Elk lake for rowing action all weekend long. Rowing clubs from the greater Victoria area showed up as well as teams from upper Vancouver Island and the mainland. The Quebec provincial team also made the trip out to the west coast to participate in the action.

Sunday saw most of UVic claiming medals. The junior varsity men's eight-plus pulled a time of 5:55 and 6:14 to finish first and third respectively.

Furthermore, UVic brought home gold in the novice women's eight-plus by leaving the SFU squad countless boat lengths behind with a time of 6:53 — a full minute and 53 seconds ahead.

"I'm really impressed with the talent we have this year," said women's coach Rick Crawley. "Overall, they all had good performances."

Late Sunday afternoon the junior varsity men's and women's four-plus crews (a boat of four rowers, four oars) took to the water and with two UVic teams in each final, all four boats finished first and second in their respective races.

There were a few minor scheduling hiccups over throughout the event as the weather did not want to cooperate Saturday.

"We had strong cross winds affecting the races [on Saturday], which caused a few stoppages in the racing," said Crawley. "[On Sunday] we [had some] tail winds, but that didn't affect the racing, although it may have given the rowers a boost."


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**Innovation and Development Corporation**
University of Victoria Technology Transfer Office

# Accolades roll in for Vikes

**Eric Hertz**

The season may be over for UVic's basketball teams, but the accolades just keep coming in. On the women's side, Kayla Dykstra was named Canada West MVP and Vanessa Forstbauer earned Comeback Player of the Year.

For the men, senior Mitch Gudgeon received the nod for a second team all-star berth.

Dykstra was a key component in the Vikes' 17-6 record and second-place finish this year. Dykstra led the Canada West in scoring with 18.6 points per game and rebounding with 11.2 points per game. Her 1.4 blocks per game ranked sixth in the division as well. She recorded these outstanding numbers while constantly facing double and triple teams all season long.

In her game of the season, Dykstra torched the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack for 21 points, 23 rebounds and eight blocks.

"Those kinds of numbers are unheard of in women's basketball," said head coach Brian Cheng.

To put these numbers in perspective, eight blocks in a single game gives Dykstra a share of the second-highest number of blocks in one game in the history of the Canada West Division. Her 23 rebounds give her a share of sixth all-time in Canada West history.

Meanwhile, Forstbauer was nominated for the Tracey MacLeod award for Comeback Player of the Year. After missing all of the 2007-08 season due to heart problems, Forstbauer returned to perennially fill the stat sheet. Her averages of 8.2 points, 7 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 1.8 steals were all-time career highs, and many times throughout the season she flirted with a triple-double.

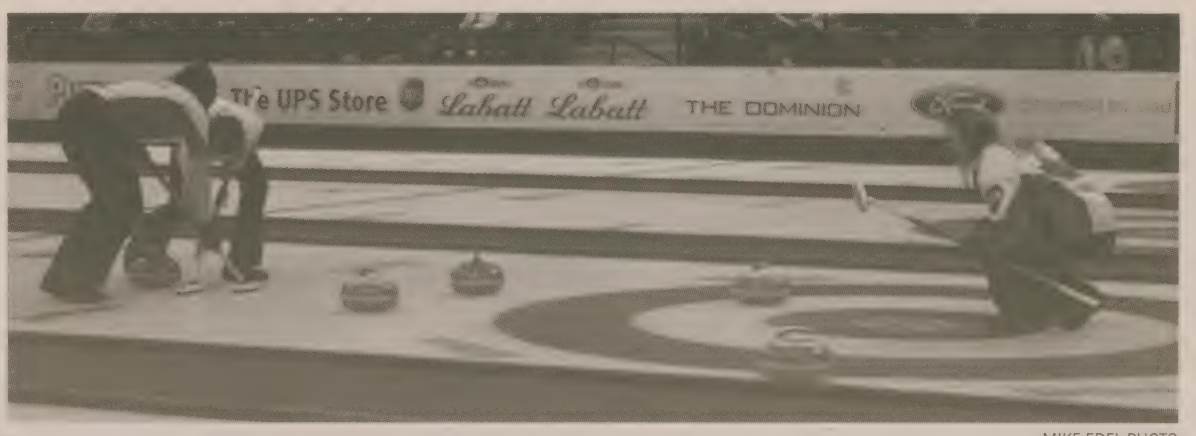
On the men's side, Gudgeon was named as a Canada West second team all-star. In his final year of eligibility, Gudgeon led the Vikes in scoring with 15.6 points per game and rebounding with 10.1 rebounds per game. He was also a key anchor in the Vikes' division-leading defence.

Gudgeon saved the best for last this season, scoring 21 points and recording 20 rebounds in his second-to-last regular season game. His 21 points pushed him past the impressive career mark of 1,000 points.

"We're all obviously very proud of Mitch," said men's head coach Craig Beaucamp. "I thought Mitch showed considerable improvement over the last two seasons."

LIGHTCRAFTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

**Kayla Dykstra was named Canada West MVP for women's basketball.**




MIKE EDEL PHOTO

**Team Canada was able to rebound after a poor start to take the Scotties final against B.C. by a score of 8-5.**

# Team Canada edges past BC for Scotties

**Mike Edel**

Assisted by walkers and canes, curling fans from Victoria and across the country flooded the Save On Foods Memorial Centre from Feb. 21 to March 1, barely staying seated at the tense excitement of the 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

This year Victoria had the honour of hosting the Scotties, the nine-day Canadian Women's Curling Championship tournament, which saw Jennifer Jones' Team Canada rink defeat B.C.'s Marla Mallett to repeat as Canadian Champions.

"The drama has been phenomenal this week," said Mark Stefanson, director of media relations for the Scotties. "Most people were surprised B.C. did so well and Team Canada struggled during the week."

While Team Canada was a favourite entering the tournament, B.C.'s hometown success was a pleasant surprise.

The Mallett rink advanced with a bye to the final, but Jones' Team Canada strung together four wins facing elimination before defeating B.C. 8-5 in the final draw Sunday evening, March 1.

> "Most people were surprised B.C. did so well and Team Canada struggled during the week."
>
> – Mark Stefanson, Scotties Director of Media Relations

In the seventh end, Jones took control of the match after a missed shot by Mallett, the turning point that led to a Team Canada victory. While the hometown fans saw their team fall short, the tournament could be nothing short of a success for organizers, volunteers and fans.

But for fans who didn't grow up breathing in the icy air of the small town curling rink, the tournament was still packed with entertainment and easy enough to grasp — especially when you consider curling is shuffleboard on ice.

There are two teams of four, each player throwing two rocks each, in which precision and strategy leave the team with the rock closest to the button (centre of rings at the other end of the ice) with a point or more each end.

Ten ends in this kind of tournament can last two to three hours. The favourite part of watching curling for most is the players' frantic screaming. The skip screams at her two sweepers to sweep "harder!" or "woooah!" to stop.

Blair Finnie, a spectator at Saturday's semi-final match, not only enjoyed the shouting of the "graceful young women dancing on the ice," but also enjoyed determining what the Scotties Mascot resembled.

"A confusing-looking character," said Finnie. "He could be a cotton ball, a rain drop or a used and disfigured roll of toilet paper."

Finnie added that watching the tournament was a great way to relax and have some fun.

"I think if I needed to save money on stress reduction programs I would come to curling matches all the time," said Finnie, who was on the younger side of the demographic watching Saturday's semi-final.

The quiet murmur of the crowd was only broken when there was a communal gasp at a close shot, followed by gracious applause or a deadly hush, depending on the result of the shot.

Does curling have a place in Victoria, or even for those who aren't in retirement?

"There is no question curling is a huge sport in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba," said Stefanson, who grew up in Manitoba.

The prairies are no longer dotted with landmark grain elevators, but local curling barns still spin with excitement during the eternal winter. Here in Victoria, however, the "big curling fraternity" seems to be mostly active retirees.

"It's a non-contact sport, except for your broom hitting the ice," said Scotties volunteer Bob Ainscough, noting why curling is a fun sport accessible to all ages.

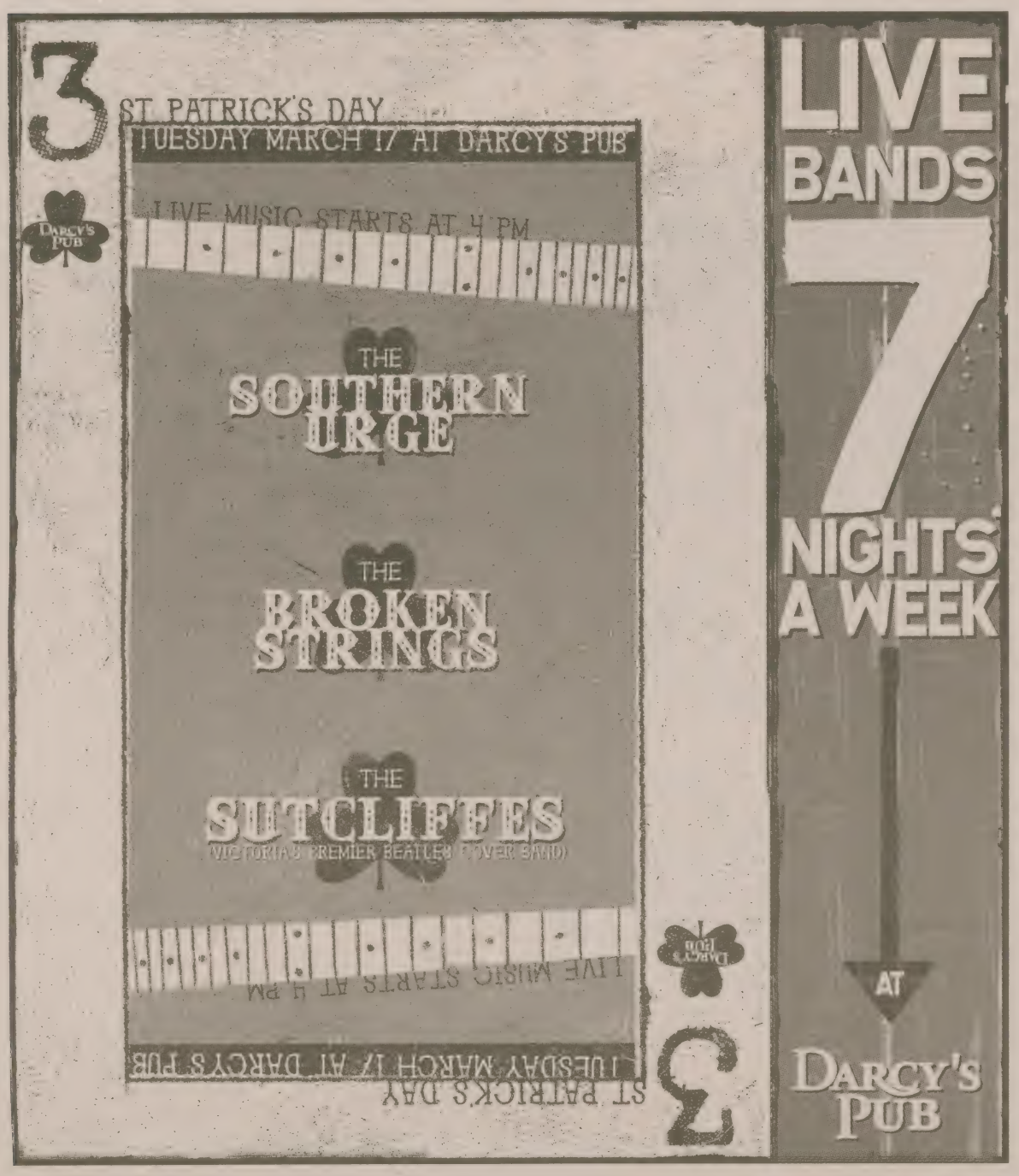
At the Esquimalt Curling Club, where Ainscough Curls, there are curlers up to 97 years old.

But while accessibility may be what makes curling part of Canadian culture, it's also about community, the beer or two after the game and relaxing. But the sport can also be competitive.

It's an Olympic Sport Canada excels in. This December, Edmonton will host "The Roar of the Rings," the 2009 Canadian Curling Trials which will determine Canada's team for the 2010 Olympics — which is what the Jones rink will set their sights on while enjoying their Canadian Champion status.

UVic also has a curling club that plays once a week and welcomes both recreational and competitive players. Information can be found by e-mailing curling@uvic.ca.

Settling for curling highlights on TV won't get you into this game, but strapping on a slider, grabbing a broom and playing with a 97-year-old friend sure will.



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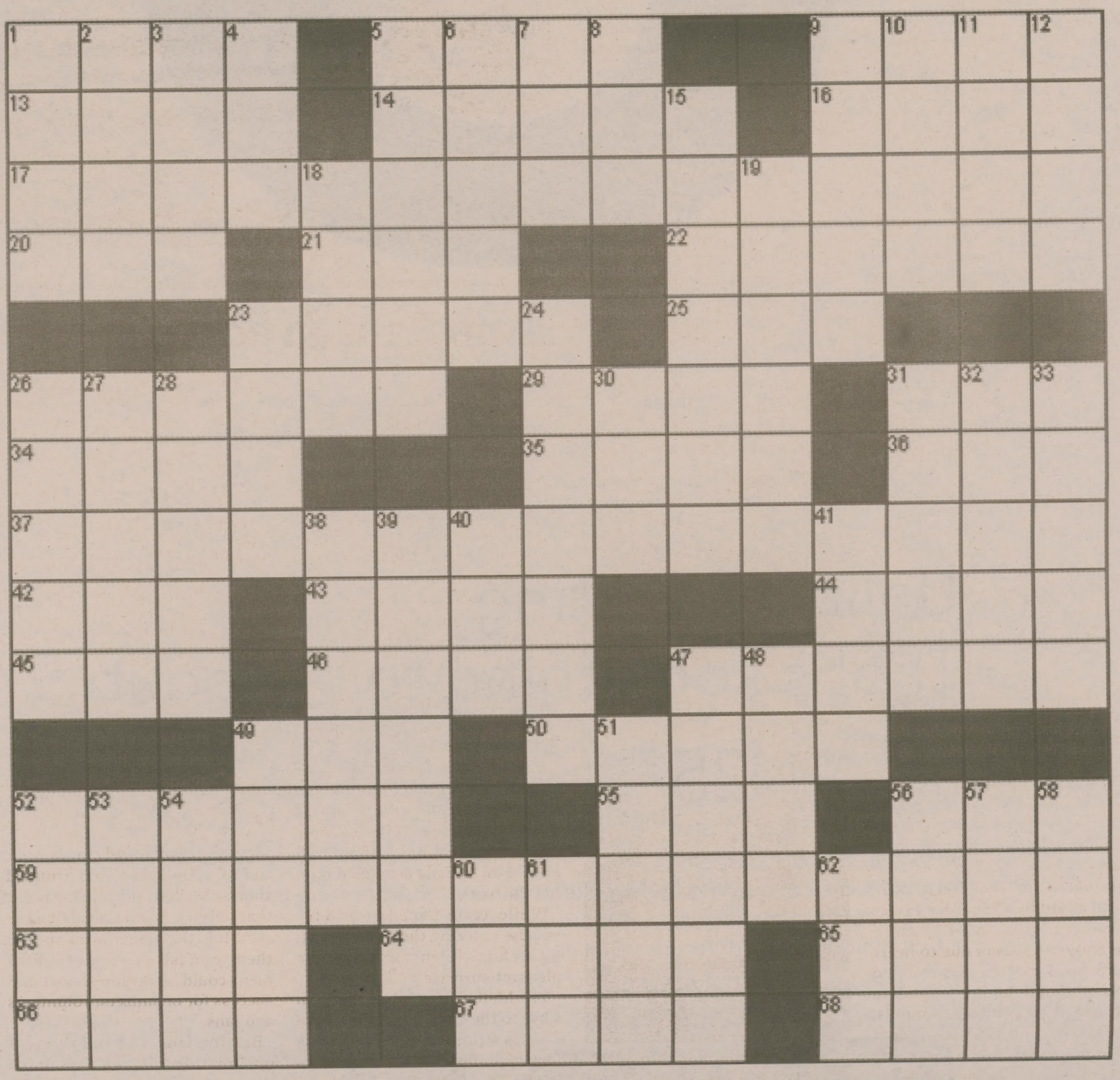
by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)



### ACROSS

1. Degenerates
5. Area unit
9. Chinese dynasty
13. Jim Davis' dog
14. Frank
16. October's stone
17. Small and large countries
20. Meddle
21. Eurasian nomad
22. Ancient (hyph.)
23. Depend
25. Melodist Doris
26. Far and wide
29. Similar
31. Limit
34. Repents
35. Skin
36. Number 4
37. Old and new countries
42. Delivery corp.
43. "I cannot tell ___"
44. Inco's products
45. 112.5° (abbr.)
46. Actor Beatty, et al.
47. Adulterate
49. Delay
50. Genuinely
52. Fleet
55. Geographic system: abbr.
56. Seashell seller
59. Island and coastal countries
63. Peck film, with "The"
64. Full house number
65. Creatures of 4 Down
66. Sieves for gold
67. TO epidemic
68. Clamp

### DOWN

1. Play
2. Perspiration property
3. Minute
4. Hemmingway setting
5. Plentiful
6. Metallic sound
7. Down or away
8. Terminus
9. Saunter
10. ___ Facto
11. Carpenter's tool
12. Bag maker
15. Investor's specialty
18. Green pet?
19. Elephant country
23. Water spout
24. Sincere
26. Contest
27. Makes a faux pas
28. Actress Witherspoon
30. Joke
31. Mongoose prey
32. The Ram
33. Green chalcedony
38. Multicultural country
39. Chic
40. First or foreign
41. Melville character
47. Obligations
48. Shade trees
49. Suburbia features
51. Less courteous
52. On
53. Clarke novel, Rendezvous with ___
54. Demeanour
56. Indian dress
57. Cluckers
58. Otherwise
60. Tongue depressor responses
61. Heston's org.
62. Intimidate a dragster

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## ON CAMPUS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**Icons of a Border: A Photographic Search for Traces in Today's Berlin**
**All Day, Every Day**
McPherson Library, Gallery
The exhibit highlights the photographic exploration of 36 students from the University of Paderborn who documented both the visible and invisible remnants of the Berlin Wall in modern day Germany.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6313
Maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

**Exploring the Marine Microbial World: New Vistas in Uncharted Territory**
**7 - 9 p.m.**
Wright Centre, B150
Dr. DeLong will expand on the informational and biological linkages that integrate studies of genes and genomes in oceanic microbial communities, to large-scale ecosystem properties that drive the cycles of energy and matter.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7077
biocmicr@uvic.ca

**FIND Studio Series**
**7 - 10 p.m.**
Phoenix Theatre
A series of five one-act plays written by emerging playwrights from the Department of Writing and performed and directed by Theatre Students. Audiences can pick and choose the plays that most interest them, or stay for the entire evening! Tickets available at the door.
Fee: $2.50 per show
$10 for the evening
Info: 250.721.8000
theatre@uvic.ca

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

**Genetics of Cone Photoreceptor Development, Patterning & Regeneration**
**2:30 - 4 p.m.**
Cunningham Building, 146
Dr. Allison maintains an active research program regarding the evolution of photoreceptor development and patterning.
Fee: Free
Info: bioclerk@uvic.ca

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

**Life Drawing**
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
Visual Arts Building, A150
Open to the public. All skill levels welcome!
Fee: $5
Info: sbean@uvic.ca

**Remaking the Economy through People's Eyes: A Forum Exploring Economic Models for Today and Tomorrow**
**All Day**
MacLaurin Building, A144
The following lectures are included in this event — "The Big Picture: The Politics of An Economy," "Community Capital: A Sustainable Approach to Community Development," "There is Another way: The Social Economy," and "Another Way of Doing Things: The Co-operative Model."
Registration required.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8751
solbcics@uvic.ca

**Thai Night**
Student Union Building, Vertigo
**6 - 8:30 p.m., doors at 5:30 p.m.**
Experience a night of elaborate Thai food, culture and performance. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Chaipattana Foundation of His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej.
Fee: $15
Info: ruji55@uvic.ca
jenjirak@uvic.ca

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

**International Women's Day Celebration Featuring Margaret Visser**
**2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
University Centre, Auditorium
Join the Canadian Federation of University Women Victoria in celebrating women, their work, challenges and achievements, past, present and future. Featuring speaker Margaret Visser.
Seating is reserved and limited. Advance reservations are recommended.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8480
ticket@uvic.ca

### MONDAY, MARCH 9

**The G20 Process**
**12 - 1:30 p.m.**
Human and Social Development Building, A373
Dr. Gordon Smith, Executive Director, Centre for Global Studies will lead a discussion on leaders' roles in solving global deadlocks and the potential for the G20 to be a successful forum for global governance.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8056
youngb@uvic.ca

**CANEUEL - Le, nonet: Success After Enduring Many Hardships**
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
David Strong Building, C118
CANEUEL: Working Together - Community-Based Research with Aboriginal Communities Afternoon Tea Series - Everyone Welcome LE, NONET (Success after Enduring Many Hardships), Aboriginal Student Success at UVic: Stories and Results of the LE, NONET Project at UVic Presenters: LE, NONET Co-Principal Investigators Sarah Hunt and Chris Lalonde (UVic Psychology), Dawn Smith and Ruth-Anne Donellsen and UVic Aboriginal students.
Fee: Free.
Info: 250-472-4171
ocbr@uvic.ca

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

**Reflections on Toleration; or, Bridging the Religio-Political**
**4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**
Engineering and Computer Science Building, 124
The perception that religious pluralism is a catalytic social force has resurfaced of late. To understand this common perception, this lecture elaborates three theses. First, that it's imaginable that religion(s) have been proven sources of and for toleration. Second, that these same traditions have also at times produced examples of intolerance. The third thesis offers lineaments of a solution, a paradoxical ambivalence that characterizes both, insisting on opposing religion and the secular, are both in this way Manichean.
Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6325
csrs@uvic.ca

## LIVE CONCERTS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**Jess Taylor @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn**
**8 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: Free

**Canoe Club Sessions Alex Nichols, Mike Hann, Dave Burke, Mike Roma, Keith Gallant @ Canoe**
**9:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. doors at 9 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: Free

**Hardly Soft, Zappninblack @ Evolution**
**9 p.m. - 2 a.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $8 at the door
$6 in advance

**Jesse Roper, EGO STAR, Sunday Buckets, Oscar @ Logan's Pub**
**9 p.m. - 1 a.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $8

**DJ Kenzie Clarke @ Lucky Bar**
**10 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $5

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

**Slam Dunk, 'It It, Rooney and the Minglers, Old Gospel @ Camas Book and Infoshop**
**8 - 11 p.m.**
(All Ages).
Fee: $5

**Aegis Fang, Rorschach, Gypsy Hacks, Insomniacs @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn**
**8 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $5

**Gail Harris and the Low Riders, Caroline and Adam Awesome Band, Great Job @ Hermann's Jazz Club**
**8 - 11:30 p.m.**
(All Ages).
Fee: $10 at the door
$8 in advance

**The Music of Joy Division and the Talking Heads Elephant Island, Fuji Katayama, Children, The Sublimates, Balacade, Les Fleurs Brisees @ Logan's Pub**
**10 p.m., doors at 9 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $8

**Spindrift, The Upsidedown, The Blue Violets @ Lucky Bar**
**10 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $13

**The Creepshow, The Resignators, The Zap Straps @ Soprano's**
**10 p.m. - 2 a.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $15 + s/c

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

**Poundland, Marlo Eggplant, Rusalka, Taskmaster, Sealion, griefer @ Camas Book and Infoshop**
**7:30 - 11 p.m., doors at 7 p.m.**
(All Ages).
Fee: admission by donation

**Chase Long Beach, Hillside Hooligans, Rocky Mountain Rebel Music @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn**
**10 p.m. - 2 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $10

**BEERC / DC, The Zig Zags @ Logan's Pub**
**10 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: $7

**Younger Than Yesterday @ The Phoenix Bar and Grill**
**8 p.m.**
(No Minors).
Fee: Free

**Savvy Songwriters Mowbray and Mills @ Spiral Cafe**
**8 - 10 p.m.**
(All Ages).
Fee: admission by donation

**Guitar Virtuosity at its best with Corbett & Lochbaum @ The Superior**
**7 - 10 p.m., doors at 5 p.m.**
(All Ages).
Fee: Free

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peer Helping is Recruiting for entry of September 09. See website for more information (www.peerhelping.uvic.ca) or come by our office (Student Union Building, B005).

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March 7, 2009, at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Doors Open 8 p.m.; Bidding Begins 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 at the door.
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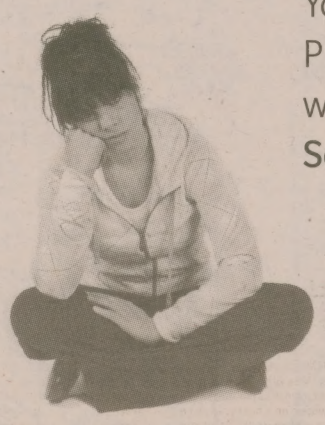
Tired of Waiting?

You should have called Piazetti's, the only place with Late Night Express Service to UVic.
Piazetti's Pizzeria
www.piazettis.com
250-920-5550

MARTLET CLASSIFIEDS
Place and pay for ads through Paypal.
Go to www.paypal.com, click Send Money to ads@martlet.ca, and type your classified in the Message field.
Students - $2 for 40 words
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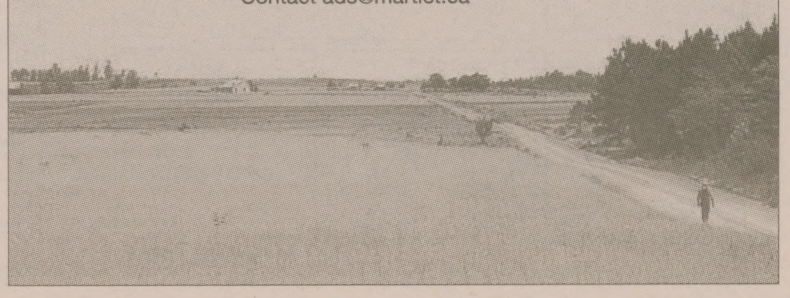


# Comics

## Checkerpop

lineart by Marc Junker  Colors by Denver Jackson

to be continued.

## Bunns

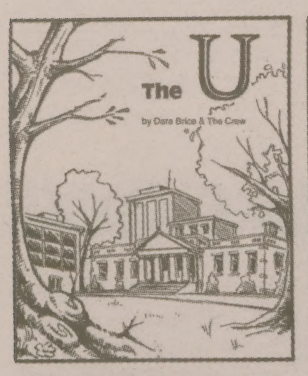
WE DID IT J.P. PHASE ONE OF OUR PLAN IS COMPLETE! BWAHAHAHAHA!
THE SAME THING WE DO EVERDAY.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW GUSTAV?
TRY TO ELIMINATE THE RABBITS FROM CAMPUS?
NAH. RUN AROUND. GATHER SOME FOOD. ACT LIKE FURRY NINJAS.
BUNNSCOMIC.COM
©GLEN O'NEILL 2008-09

## North East Lynx

NORTH EAST LYNX
So where do you think we'll be in three years time, Shutsie?
Three years?! Are you serious? I don't think that far ahead. The world could be over by then! 2012. The Mayan Calendar, Y'know.
That sounds a little dramatic. I don't know if the world will END. Something bad could happen, I guess. But I think we would find a way to bounce back, rebuild from the ashes, rise again and overcome!
Fucking humanist.
northeastlynx@gmail.com

## The U

by Dara Brice & The Crew



HEY CORY I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU,.. EH SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN ANTHROPOLOGY DURING THIS LECTURE BLOCK?
OH HI TESS,..
NAH,... I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO CLASS TODAY,...
WHY WHATS UP?

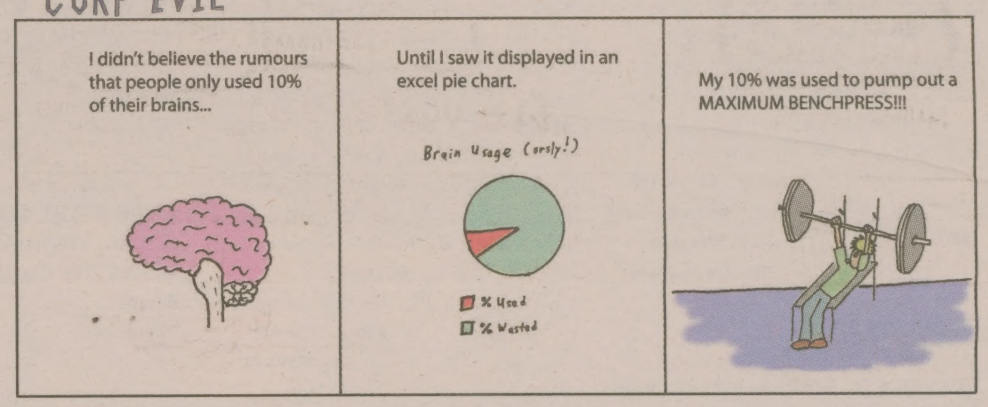
OH ERNIE AN I BROKE-UP THIS WEEKEND AN HE LEFT TODAY FOR LIOFT TO ENROL IN THEIR NURSING PROGRAM,..
WHAT!
YEH MY FEELINGS EXACTLY,... HIS LAST WORDS TO ME WAS "SEE YOU ON FACEBOOK",...
OH CORY I'M SOOO SORRY, AN TO THINK HE WAS YOUR SOULMATE,..
I THOUGHT SO TOO... ERNIE BELIEVES WITH THIS CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION, THERE'S NO DEMAND FOR A GRADUATE IN THE CLASSICS,.. BUT PEOPLE GET SICK ALL THE TIME,...
WELL GIRLFRIEND HE DOES HAVE A POINT,..
TESS,...
YEH
YOUR NOT HELPING,..
SORRY,...

## Porkmouth by Cole Roche

(Now with 50% more straight lines!)

March 2, 2009
First, you grab it, and then you just lick it. Like a lollipop!
Really? He'll like that?!
Yeah! It's easy! He'll totally melt for you!
Okay, well... if you say so...

## Corp Evil

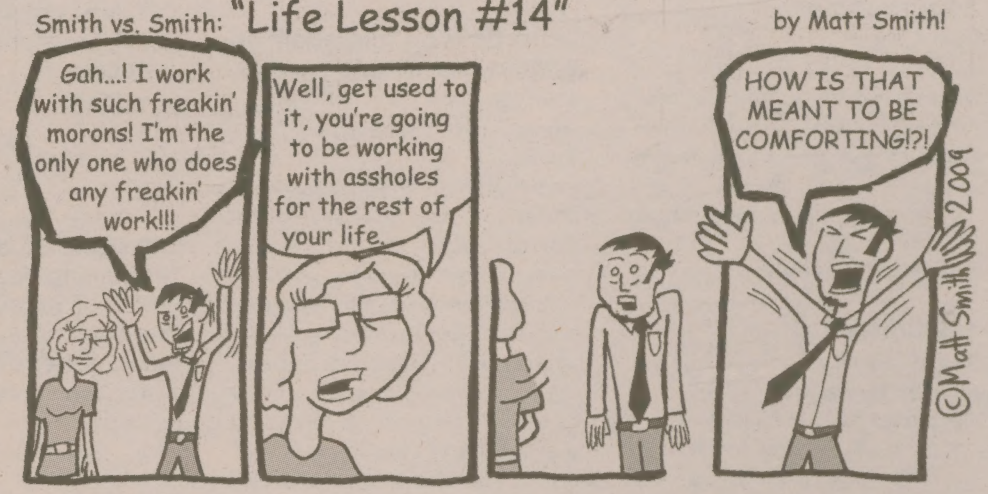

I didn't believe the rumours that people only used 10% of their brains...
Until I saw it displayed in an excel pie chart.
Brain Usage (ersly!)
% Used
% Wasted
My 10% was used to pump out a MAXIMUM BENCHPRESS!!!

## Day 483

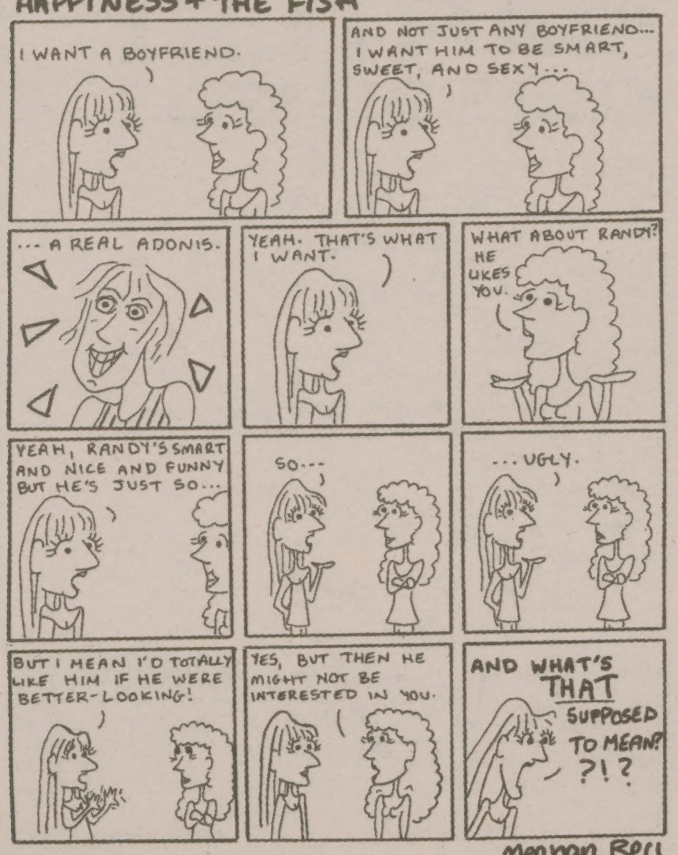
DAY 483 2 January 2008 9
I'm gonna do the laundry and be responsible!
She's using ALL the washing machines!
Bitch!
what a nice lady
'morning!
Hey there!

## Smith vs. Smith: "Life Lesson #14"

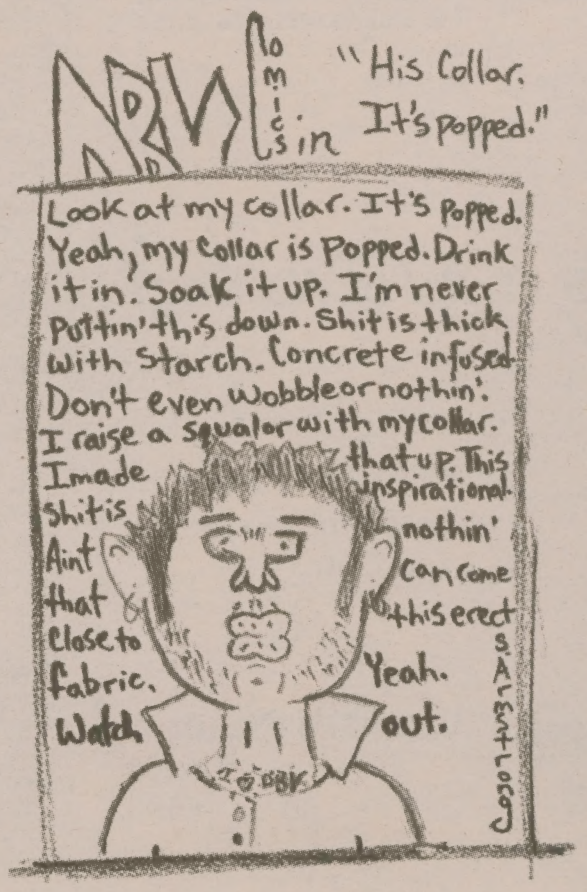
by Matt Smith!


Gah...! I work with such freakin' morons! I'm the only one who does any freakin' work!!!
Well, get used to it, you're going to be working with assholes for the rest of your life.
HOW IS THAT MEANT TO BE COMFORTING!?!
©Matt Smith 2009

## Happiness + The Fish


HAPPINESS + THE FISH
I WANT A BOYFRIEND.
AND NOT JUST ANY BOYFRIEND... I WANT HIM TO BE SMART, SWEET, AND SEXY...
... A REAL ADONIS.
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I WANT.
WHAT ABOUT RANDY? HE LIKES YOU.
YEAH, RANDY'S SMART AND NICE AND FUNNY BUT HE'S JUST SO...
SO...
... UGLY.
BUT I MEAN I'D TOTALLY LIKE HIM IF HE WERE BETTER-LOOKING!
YES, BUT THEN HE MIGHT NOT BE INTERESTED IN YOU.
AND WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!?
Megnan Bell

## Abominations in "His Collar. It's popped."


Look at my collar. It's popped. Yeah, my collar is popped. Drink it in. Soak it up. I'm never puttin' this down. Shit is thick with starch. Concrete infused. Don't even wobble or nothin'. I raise a squalor with my collar. I made that up. This shit is inspirational. Ain't nothin' that can come close to this erect fabric. Yeah. Watch out.
S.A. Estlosso

## Decomposition

DECOMPOSITION
BY HAIKU
PART 2 of 17
SO... LIKE I WAS SAYING...
...TWIG! STICKING OUT OF THE MIRROR!
...OUT OF NOWHERE!
WEIRD!
...SO AFTER I CALM DOWN, I DECIDE TO TRY TO TOUCH THE STICK...
...BUT I'M NERVOUS!! FUCK!
THE SHIT'S WEIRD!
THE CLOSER MY FINGER GETS... THE MORE IT SHAKES!
...AND I GET THIS WEIRD TINGLING!... TINGLY SHIT!
rocco.roxy@gmail.com
...FINALLY...
I JUST SAY...
FUCK IT!! IT'S A TWIG!
AND I GRAB THE THING!!
...DAMN!...
...AND THAT'S WHEN MY LIFE BECAME A SHIT STORY!!
STUPID TWIG!
TO BE CONTINUED...